



# The Breeze

## Upper Rissington's Newsletter

### Spring 2021

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Welcome to another slightly slimmer edition of *the Breeze*, once again missing our local advertisers due to the lockdown restrictions. It seems amazing to think that last time the Spring edition was published words like 'Covid-19' and 'lockdown' barely featured in our vocabulary. It has certainly been a strange and challenging year for so many, with so many family and community events having to be cancelled or indefinitely-postponed. But the rainbow captured by David on the back page reminds us to keep hoping; and we do hope that, by the next edition of *the Breeze*, restrictions will have been eased and our social calendars will be back in use.

But, of course, even lockdown doesn't stop the action in Upper Rissington, as various articles in this edition make clear. It's good to see the contributions of people like Kate Hunter (see p6) and the Harrisons (p7) being recognised, and also to introduce some of the newer initiatives that are being set up (see p14-15). Talking of introductions, some of you may already have met Rev Nina Summerfield, the new house-for-duty priest, but see p11 for more details.

We're grateful, as always, to our regular contributors, including Polly for her *Gardening on a Hill* and David for *Behind the Road Names* (who never complains when I have to ditch him due to space-constraints!). Don't forget to 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 - opportunities are available!

Enjoy the Spring

Sue Handy (editor)

# Village News

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

### The Social Committee

Well that's January over with. February's half way through at the time of writing and March is here by the time you're reading this. The days are getting longer, there's a chance that the rain might give way to sunshine, the temperatures will start rising and the bulbs will start breaking cover with the village daffodils taking over from the snowdrops. These next few months we hope to see the start of the recovery of social normalities. If society is going to start to recover its appetite for company and friendship, well, the Upper Rissington Social Committee isn't going to be left out. We're starting to plan events again. Albeit carefully to start with. Albeit constrained rather than full on unfettered. We have plans in place for Easter and are developing plans to bring the Village Fete back in July.

### Halloween

A trip round the village on Halloween was a real treat. The effort that went into displays was nothing short of breathtaking. The displays showed just how much hard work people are prepared to invest to show their creativity and



perhaps even talent for the macabre. We asked children in the village to vote for their favourite Halloween display and offered small prizes to those houses that got the most votes. We were rewarded with around 40 children taking part in the vote, many making comments expressing gratitude for the effort. It says a lot that out of the 40 there

were 17 different addresses identified for 1st place so well done everyone who did anything to help make the night so special.

There were clear winners though as 13 children voted for 1 Proctor Way. Second was 5 Kitty Hawk Walk and third was 3 Smith Barry Crescent. All three winners were such good sports and immediately offered their winnings to Rotary and the Food-bank.



## Easter

We've always enjoyed our popular Easter Egg Hunts with chocolate-filled children racing around the fields burning off almost as many calories as they were finding. This year we think April might be a little early for us to plan on encouraging a large crowd so we've tweaked the formula a little. We still want parents to enjoy the challenge of keeping order amongst their sugar-'rushed' bundles of joy so we want to get eggs to them. This year we thought we'd deliver eggs to the doorstep of every child who sends us a little Easter-themed creation. It can be a picture, a collage, a sculpture or something a bit more Tracey Emin, we don't mind. Just send us a picture of the creation along with the name of the creator and home address and we'll pass on their details to our local Easter Bunny. We know they'll be out delivering that day and will be sure to leave an egg on the doorstep of every child who submits their creation. Have Fun. Submit entries by 4pm on 27th March and don't forget to let us know if there are any dietary considerations.



We have invited the Easter Bunny to visit the children who live in the village. If your child/children would like a visit and gift from him all they have to do is submit something "Easterly" by 4pm 27 Mar 2021. Some suggestions are:



An Easter picture



Decorate some eggs/create an egg scene



Decorate an easter bonnet

Please send your submissions to [snw@btinternet.com](mailto:snw@btinternet.com) and include your child's first name, your address and any dietary requirements (eg gluten free).

All entries will receive an Easter egg from the Easter Bunny on Easter Saturday, delivered in a covid safe manner. Feel free to upload pictures to the Upper Rislington Social Committee Facebook page to give everyone something to enjoy but **DO NOT** include any personal details, these must be emailed to us to protect the children.



## The Fate of the Summer Fete

As life slowly returns to normal so we have to start planning for the Summer Fete. We're not in a position to know exactly what we'll be allowed to do or what will be the ideal balance between socialising and prudence until much closer to the date. We are currently in early planning stages to bring a fete that is appropriate and fun. We'll give more details closer to the time when we'll have a better idea of the status of such events but, in the meantime, remember to put the date in your diary. Saturday 3rd July, and let's hope for a sunny and warm day.

## Potty Time Appeal

Well Jill Harrison has been at it again. Another amazing creation arranged in the entrance lobby of the Village Hall for all to view. Hopefully you will have had chance to see the display that was at the Hall on the week of 15th February, in time for the school half term holidays.

David and Jill put out an appeal to the Social Committee for donations of pots and materials to help construct the latest display. Jill is the creative genius behind this superb effort to entertain the village during the lockdown. The level of detail and imagination that's gone into this is so impressive. We're proud to be tenuously connected to the display through pot and material donations, and let's not forget that David is the Committee Treasurer. Thank you Jill, and if more pots and materials were donated, who knows what guise The Pots might appear in next?



## 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

# Village Hall Update



## Sadly the last Update

Sadly the Village Hall Trust is unlikely to be in business by the next edition of *the Breeze*. The Village Hall itself we hope will go from strength to strength under the stewardship of the Parish Council (PC).

At the time of writing plans have not been developed to the point that we can confidently share details of the future management of the Village Hall, but we thought that it would be sensible to share what we know so far, as you may see the winding up of the Village Hall Trust as an agenda item in the PC meetings.

The current situation is that the Trust is arranging the hand-back of the lease to the PC. Following this it intends to apply to the Charity Commission to be taken off the list of registered charities.

It's not all sad though. While the Trust and Management Team have had control of the Hall it's achieved so much that will have value going forward into the next phase of its life. Even during this lockdown we've been improving the Hall. There is a state-of-the-art AV system now installed in the community room. This adds to the general improvement in the facilities of the Hall that we've achieved in the time we've been running it. Over the years we've dealt with the replacement of all the furniture, new storage systems, new AV system, new carpark lighting and a whole host of trouble around the heating systems. New cleaning machinery, booking systems, admin and maintenance procedures have all developed over the past five years since the team got into the depths of negotiating the lease. We've carried out nightly caretaking duties to ensure the Hall is secure and ready for the next days hirers. We've emptied nappy bins, changed smelly filters in the toilets and addressed some of the less glamorous elements of managing such a facility. The effort has always been worth it. We have always enjoyed terrific support from the community and it's been heartening to encounter so many volunteers who have been prepared to undertake backbreaking work to support us. We feel a sense of loss in moving on but we believe that the time is right for this change of direction.

It's probably worth stating the value that the Trust has had to the community. Since taking over the Village Hall we've developed the customer base to the point that it was operationally self-funding in the last year of posted finances (2019/2020). This year (2020/2021) has obviously been difficult as we've had regular expenditure for utilities, insurances, maintenance and management but little to no income due to Covid limiting the use of the Hall. The PC supported the Trust in the first three years with grants totalling £35,000. After paying legal costs for the winding up of the Trust we will remit back to the PC in the order of £12,000 to £15,000. In addition the PC will take over the assets built up by the Trust. This value has been achieved through the reliance on voluntary effort and we sincerely hope that the PC will receive similar support in the future. The use of a Trust to establish the customer base, develop the facility and establish processes and procedures for the future has been terrific value for money.

At the time of writing we are early into our engagement with the PC so have no official position to report. We have proposed a timeline offering nearly six months of support for an orderly handover. Hopefully the Hall will be operational as soon as the lockdown allows but this is highly likely to be

under the management of the PC, with handover support from the Trust and Management Committee.

The members of the Trust and Management Team do have some regrets for the change in operation. However, we will continue to support the community with our voluntary commitments to our other interests including Rotary, *Breeze* and of course The Social Committee. Keep your eyes peeled for any changes in the booking process and contact details and please support the PC as you've supported us.

## The Rissingtons Local History Society

We held our first talk via Zoom in January, "*Woodchester Mansion*," by Liz Davenport. Many of us visited this Mansion a few years ago – so hearing the history of the building was very interesting. It was lovely to see many of our members for the first time since the pandemic started. We had another Zoom talk in February, "*Regency Cheltenham*," by Phil Collins dressed as a Regency gentleman, walking us round the town in full Regency dress!

### **Forthcoming events:ON ZOOM**

#### **Friday 12th March @7.30pm.** "*Child Labour in 19C Oxfordshire*"

Liz Woolley will enlighten us on the story of Oxfordshire's child workers who often started work at 6yrs and left school at 10yrs for full-time employment.

***Venue – your own home.***

#### **Friday 16th April @7.30pm.** "*Place-names in the Gloucestershire Landscape*"

Dr Simon Draper will explore the diversity of place names, connecting them to archaeological features mainly in the Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods.

***Venue – your own home.***

#### **Friday 21st May @ 7.30pm.** "*William Morris and the Car Industry in Oxford*"

Alastair Lack will talk on the life of Morris and the history of his company, culminating in the present BMW works at Cowley.

***Venue – your own home.***

**Visitors Welcome.** For further information, please contact Sue Brown on 01451 820233 or Sue Lee on 01451 822692 or email [information.RHLS@gmail.com](mailto:information.RHLS@gmail.com)

The **Great Rissington Gardening Club** is pleased to announce that we are starting up again with our 2021 programme of talks on gardening topics and garden visits that we hope to organise in the summer. Our first 3 talks in March, April & May will be on Zoom at 7.30 pm on the following dates:

Wed March 10th - Brief AGM followed by David Cramp of the RSPB on "*Garden Birds of Gloucestershire*"

Wed April 14th - Adrian James on "*A Garden from Scratch*"

Wed May 12th - Vanessa Berridge on "*The National Garden Scheme*"

For information on these meetings & how to join them please email Janet Turnbull on [janeteturnbull@gmail.com](mailto:janeteturnbull@gmail.com)



# Our BBC One Show Star

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February, Kate Hunter appeared on the BBC One Show's 'Big Thank You'. Kate, who lives in Lutyens Court, was recognised for her inspiring work and dedication to her 'Cake for Keyworkers' initiative. During the first Lockdown, Kate, and her partner Craig Tout, started 'Cake for Keyworkers'. The idea was to provide people with an opportunity to show key-workers how much they appreciated their sacrifice and dedication. A donation to 'Cake for Keyworkers' buys the ingredients, and Kate employs her cake-baking and decorating skills to turn them into delicious cakes. The cakes are delivered to key-workers on the front line and provide a real morale boost. The One Big Thank You featured recipients of Kate's cakes showing how much it had meant to them receiving these unexpected treats; tokens of how much the community appreciated what they were doing. Kate has received £2,531 of donations, baked over 500 cakes and delivered to 52 groups of key-workers so far.



The One Big Thank You is designed to be a weekly surprise on The One Show. The BBC went to great lengths to keep preparations secret. Craig nominated Kate for the show about 2 weeks before the filming. The BBC got in touch and interviewed Craig over the phone and then in person in a customer's back garden. He and one of Kate's daughters provided the details of 20 people the BBC could contact. They recorded contributions to the show over Zoom from people who had benefited from Kate's hard work. The day before the recording, Craig arranged for Kate to go for a walk while the BBC installed hidden cameras in their home so they could record Kate baking and then her reaction to the surprise. Appropriately enough, Kate was busy baking the morning of the surprise and moved one of the secret cameras, designed to look like a phone charger! Craig had to reposition it at the last minute. Kate was surprised by a knock on the door and a cake on the doorstep and then a live link with Ronan Keating from his home. Judges from the new BBC show, 'Best Celebrity Home Cook' also added their appreciation for her work. The host of Channel 4's 'An Extra Slice', Jo Brand, also dedicated a funny poem she'd written all about cake to Kate.

So, how hard was it for Craig to keep the secret? "The poor Upper Rissington phone signal was a big help for once, giving a good excuse to go outside to make calls and receive texts" he said. "It was very stressful, and a big relief when it was over."

Since Kate's appearance on the Big Thank You? she's been asked to do a BBC Radio Gloucester interview on Nicky Price's show, and reporters from local papers have also asked for interviews. I asked Kate how it made her feel being recognised and thanked in this way? "I was really touched that people had been so kind. To me, I'm just doing something I love; baking in my kitchen and listening to the Radio, but if we can show how much we appreciate those on the frontline of this pandemic at the same time, that's just wonderful. I really appreciate everyone's support"

Kate continues to bake 'Cake for Keyworkers' and you can donate at [www.cakesbydesire.co.uk](http://www.cakesbydesire.co.uk) on her Facebook fundraising page Cakes for Keyworkers2 if you'd like to show key-workers how much you appreciate them. Donations of ingredients are also most welcome!

Well done Kate; we're proud to have you as a neighbour in our village.

## TWO SUCCESSFUL YEARS AND A COMMUNITY AWARD

The 28<sup>th</sup> January saw Rotary in the Rissingtons (commonly known as RitR) celebrating its second birthday and presenting the Brian Honess Community Award to a deserving couple in Upper Rissington.



In common with all organisations, RitR has been held back with the national lockdown. We began 2020 optimistically with a programme of actions and events which slowly, one by one, had to be cancelled. We did manage to carry out some work in the grounds of the school at Great Rissy and are hoping to continue this as soon as possible in 2021. We managed to plant over 3000 purple crocus in the grounds of the school at Upper Rissy as part of the Rotary International campaign to eradicate polio. As I write it would appear that, like most of us, the crocus are keeping their heads down .... but we remain hopeful.



The second-year presentation of the Brian Honess Community Award was made during the birthday zoom meeting. The event could hardly be compared to the Emmy Awards but we did our best in the circumstances. After considering the many nominations for outstanding voluntary work in the Rissingtons, David and Jill Harrison picked up the Award jointly, David for his unstinting service to the village over many years and Jill for her imagination and dedication in creating the *Pots Family*, which brought joy to so many during the lockdown periods.

RitR ended 2020 with Santa being spotted on Christmas Eve. Success must be repeated and so within ten months the Stig will once again get the trusty Triumph Vitesse out of the garage and chauffeur Santa around the Rissingtons.

We launch into 2021 with the hope that we can continue to support our local community. We have many varied activities on our programme so come and join us. At the moment we meet on Zoom but are looking forward to the time we can get back to normal. Contact me, Andrew, for more details at [andrew@rissington.uk](mailto:andrew@rissington.uk).



# Gardening On a Hill

Hello to everyone, and I hope you are all managing to keep yourselves sane in this latest lockdown. The winter months have been particularly difficult for us all this time round. Most of us would normally choose to spend more time indoors at this time of year when the temperature outside drops; however, it's a very different experience with the restrictions in place. The first lockdown was far easier in the warm long days when we could get outside in our gardens or just go for a long walk. We can only hope it will not be long before we can do that again. In the meantime we need to keep our minds active, so planning what we can do in our gardens this year is a good start.

As evidence now shows, gardening and growing are great for our wellbeing, helping physical and mental health, reducing stress and giving us time to reflect. While working in the garden your mind can rest from the day's activities. I always do more work than I planned to in the garden because it's so enjoyable just being outside.

If you are lucky enough to have some outdoor space it's important that you use and enjoy it in a way that's best for you and your family. Maybe you could use this time to make some new plans. Perhaps bring out that inner-designer in you. We are using our gardens differently to how we did before the pandemic and they have become a very important space and a lifeline to some of us.

The time you spend in the garden has changed, as well as what you do in it. We are spending more time at home. If you work from a home office with a window onto the garden you may be looking out onto the garden more than you did before, so putting in a path that leads the eye to a feature or statue may make that view more thought-provoking. Putting in a seating area or a tree can make you want to spend more time just sitting. Include plants you like and, especially around seating-areas, consider some scented plants, such as lavender for its relaxing properties. It might take a bit of time to create your ideas but when all the work is done you can just sit back on a sunny day and enjoy it all.



## **Summer-flowering bulbs**

Now is the time of year when garden centres have their summer-flowering bulbs. Hopefully we will soon be able to venture out and get some; however some are already available locally as some garden centres remain open for business as they are also selling food.



Summer-flowering bulbs are a joy. There is nothing more wonderful or satisfying than sitting in a warm, colourful garden that is full of the scent of flowers. The secret is to plant a variety of bulbs which will last all summer, from June until September. It takes a bit of planning but we have a little time just now to be creative. Bulbs planted in the ground or in patio pots can be enjoyed for months and the good thing about putting them in pots is you can move them around the garden.

Summer bulbs should be planted in spring, when the soil is beginning to warm up. If kept in pots in the greenhouse then bring them out in the day for a few weeks to get them used to the outside temperature. 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, although because we have had such a wet winter I would advise you make sure they have adequate drainage. Prepare the ground by digging in lots of compost and leaf mould. You will now have the chance to empty your compost bins and put all that lovely stuff to good use. On heavy soils always line the bottom of the planting hole with a layer of small gravel or grit to improve the drainage. Use the bulb as a guide and plant it two or three times its depth, spaced approximately two or three bulb widths apart. Then cover the bulbs with the compost mixture and firm down.

### Moving into the spring

It really feels like we have had all kinds of stuff thrown at us this winter, and not only the weather! It will be so lovely when the spring finally arrives. We all need a bit of a lift and the sun seems to do that really well.

I see the fields on the lower ground in Bourton still have lots of standing water, which means the ground will remain cold and damp for weeks into spring. It's a little better up here on the hill as far as standing water is concerned, but we do get those icy winds which don't help the temperature at all, so plants will take a bit longer to start growing up here. In the garden the ground will need to dry up a little before we can even think of getting out and working on it, but when the sun finally comes out it won't take long for the soil to warm up and things to start growing.

### Caring for your lawns

If grassed areas have been walked on though the winter they will need time to recover. **Never mow wet or frosty grass**, as this can damage the turf and compact the soil. Wait until later in the day when the lawn has dried out or defrosted, or postpone mowing to another day. For the first mowing or after allowing the grass to grow long, set the cutting height to the highest setting. Thereafter, gradually reduce the height of cut until the desired height is reached. Avoid excessively short mowing; although attractive, it can weaken the grass, encouraging shallow-rooting and making the lawn more susceptible to drought, weeds and moss. Close-mown lawns need more frequent feeding and watering. Extremely low cutting may scalp the lawn, leaving bare patches where there are bumps or tree roots protruding above the surface.

### Spring planting

I really look forward to the bulbs coming up in the spring. It's a sign of new life beginning and this year our green spaces will have lots of daffodils thanks to the hard work done by lots of volunteers last autumn. The daffs are now popping their heads out of the ground and will soon be brightening up our days all over the village. While we wait for that experience, seed-planting indoors is a job we can all get on with now. Annuals and vegetable seeds can be sown and left on windowsills to grow until the weather warms up outside. Get the kids involved. They really enjoy growing things, especially things they can eat later on. Strawberry plants are easy to grow and the children really enjoy picking them.

Keep well and happy gardening.

*Polly*



# The Church in Upper Rissington:

*valuing everyone*



## Nativity Trail

First of all, we want to thank all of you who took part in our Nativity Trail the week before Christmas. It was good to see families walking round the village looking for the posters of the different Nativity characters. We especially want to thank Jill & David Harrison, whose Potts-family Nativity in the entrance hall of the Village Hall made such a memorable end to the Trail. From the moment they first agreed to create the Nativity scene, they put in hours of work to create and suitably clothe each of the figures. They also ensured they had authentic-looking props to set the scene. The eagle-eyed among you may have noticed there were even tiny mice on the sacks of grain. It made a memorable Christmas.

## Forest Church

When restrictions have allowed, on a few occasions in the Autumn and early Winter we have held Church outside. It has been really enjoyable to walk around the village in small groups, talking and enjoying the beauty of the natural world - especially on the new perimeter footpath! The children have also been given activities to do - which means everyone in the group stops to help when required.

And so, as soon as restrictions are eased and people can meet in small groups outside, we plan to meet regularly for 'Forest Church' within the village. Provisionally this will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month at 10am, meeting outside the school. Suitable for the whole family, there will be suggestions of readings, two or three discussion questions and activities to do along the route.

If you would like to be kept informed about Forest Church or anything else relating to CUR:ve, contact [sendtocurve@gmail.com](mailto:sendtocurve@gmail.com) to be added to the monthly mailing list. Or check out the latest information on the CUR:ve Facebook page or website [www.curveweb.org](http://www.curveweb.org)

## **A LETTER FROM BARNARDO'S**

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us through this most challenging of years. It has been a difficult time for everyone but, hopefully, there will be better times ahead in the not too distant future.

Your support both of donations and purchases helped us to have our best Christmas season to date. We managed to beat some of the much larger stores in our region, which is an incredible achievement and will help children across the UK and right here in Gloucestershire.

At time of writing we still have no date for when we will re-open. As soon as the government restrictions are lifted a date will be announced so keep checking in the shop window for details. If you still have any unwanted "as new" Christmas gifts that you don't know what to do with, please hold on to them until we are open. We will take them off your hands and save them to make Christmas 2021 even better than last year.

Lastly, a HUGE thank you to all our wonderful volunteers. We really couldn't run the store without you. We look forward to seeing you all again when we re-open. If anyone else would like to volunteer with us we always need an extra pair of hands. Come in and see us when we are open for a chat.

Thank you everyone, *Nicola and Heather*



Hello – I would like to introduce myself as the new House for Duty Associate Priest for the Rissingtons. I am based in the vicarage in Upper Rissington (see address below) and look after the churches in Great, Little and Wyck Rissington and also wish to support the work of CUR:ve in Upper Rissington. I am very keen that people throughout all the villages know who I am and how to contact me because I am here for everyone. In theory I “work” Sunday plus two days a week but I tend to spread my ministry over more days because that works better around my other family commitments. However I am happy for people to contact me at any time, but I may not always be able to respond instantly.



My family and I are enjoying exploring Upper Rissington and meeting people every day as we walk our new rescue dog “Pounce”. I long for the times when we can meet socially once again, join in with village life and really get to know the community and all that happens here. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Bless you – stay safe and well. Nina

Revd Nina Summerfield

Associate Priest, The Benefice of Bourton-on-the-Water with Clapton and The Rissingtons  
6 De Havilland Road, Upper Rissington, GL54 2NZ

01451 810309

*My usual days are Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday*

## Wildlife Matters ...

I know that there are many people in Upper Rissington who care passionately about the local wildlife, and also many keen gardeners who despair when the local slugs cause havoc among the new plants ... but is there a way to reconcile the two? *The Breeze* has recently been asked to include a plea for people to avoid using slug pellets because of the danger to wildlife (including children and pets), but what can we do instead? I decided to do a little bit of research ...

Many slug pellets contain metaldehyde, a chemical that is highly toxic to slugs but also endangers other wildlife. After a lot of campaigning, the government has banned the outside use of metaldehyde preparations from March 2022, with a gradual phasing out before then. So what about the slugs?

The good news is that safer alternatives do exist, such as slug pellets based on iron phosphate or ammonium sulfate. But there are many other methods you can try too. Many wildlife organisations give advice on their websites (for example, see [rspb.org.uk](http://rspb.org.uk)). One particularly good way to improve things is to encourage more natural slug-predators into your garden, such as toads and hedgehogs. Providing a hedgehog-door (a CD-size hole at ground level) in a fence can make a big difference to hedgehogs, as they can roam more freely in search of all those juicy slugs. One Upper Rissington resident (who shall remain nameless!), after making a hedgehog-door, commented: ‘They are such an effective slug control I’m almost tempted to buy in more slugs to feed them :-’ Hmmm ...



## Behind the Road Names in Upper Rissington – part 13

### Slingsby Close

Slingsby Aviation is a British aircraft company based in Kirkbymoorside, North Yorkshire. The company was founded on the building and design of gliders and sailplanes. From the early 1930s to around 1970 it built over 50% of all British club gliders and had success at national- and international-level competitions. It then produced some powered aircraft, notably the composite-built Firefly trainer, before becoming a producer of specialised composite materials and components.

During the war Slingsby built parts for other company's aircraft as well as their own military glider, the Slingsby Hengist, though the latter did not see action. Towards the end of the war and afterwards the company produced large numbers of training gliders for the Air Training Corps (ATC).



*Slingsby Firefly T67M of the UK Defence Elementary Flying Training School, used for training Army and Navy student pilots*



*Slingsby T-31 (Cadet TX3) 1961 sailplane*

Their greatest success was with their glider 'Sky', which finished in first, third and fourth places at the 1952 World Gliding Championships. The later Slingsby Skylark series was their post-war best-seller. In July 1969 Slingsby went into liquidation following a disastrous fire in the previous November. After this, Slingsby became part of the Vickers Group (in November 1969) and, through the years, has been bought by other companies. It is currently (since Jan 2010), part of Marshall Aerospace,

trading as Marshall Slingsby Advanced Composites.

Another connection Slingsby has with our village is through the James Bond film 'Die Another Day', for which a car-chase scene was filmed on the airfield. Slingsby Amphibious Hovercraft Co. provided two hovercraft (SAH 2200) for the film.

### Sparrows Way

The Sparrows aerobatic team was formed in 1957 from the Royal Air Force Central Flying School and flew four Hunting Provost T1 aircraft, led by Flt Lt J H Kingsbury. A year later they moved to Jet Provost T1 under the leadership of Flt Lt N Griffin. The Piston Provosts flew in standard RAF training colours of silver with yellow training bands; the Jet Provosts having white upper surfaces and red undersides. After the 1958 season the Sparrows were disbanded.



*Sparrows Hunting Provost T1*

At the end of the 1958, two ex-Sparrows aircraft formed a new aerobatic team - The Redskins. This demonstration pair performed throughout 1959, being stood-down at the end of that season.



## From the Upper Rissington Social Committee



We have invited the Easter Bunny to visit the children who live in the village. If your child/children would like a visit and gift from him all they have to do is submit something 'Eastery' by **4pm 27 Mar 2021**. Some suggestions are:



An Easter picture



Decorate some eggs/create an egg scene



Decorate an easter bonnet

Please send your submissions to [ursc@btinternet.com](mailto:ursc@btinternet.com) and include:

**your child's first name, your address and any dietary requirements (eg gluten free).**

All entries will receive an Easter egg from the Easter Bunny on Easter Saturday, delivered in a covid safe manner. Feel free to upload pictures to the Upper Rissington Social Committee Facebook page to give everyone something to enjoy but **DO NOT** include any personal details, these must be emailed to us to protect the children.



## Local initiatives

We are blessed in this area with lots of local organisations and businesses that are a real benefit to our community. We've been asked to feature a few that Upper Rissington residents are involved in and that may be of interest ...

Ciao! My name's Catherine and I've lived in Upper Rissington with my partner, Piero, since 2016, raising our two children, Chiara and Alberto. Having spent too long trudging up and down the A40 I am very aware that the area is crying out for more locally-based activities for young children! I am also extremely passionate about the benefits of foreign language learning from a young age, so I am delighted to share the news that I am bringing Lingotot West Oxford to the Cotswold community, initially offering French and Italian lessons for children aged 0-12. I will be looking to host classes here in the village as soon restrictions allow and, if the stars align, I plan to launch during the Easter break with a holiday club for primary school-aged children, hosted here in the heart of our lovely community. Baby, toddler and preschool classes will hopefully start shortly after in the Summer term.



It really is never too early for children to start picking up a new language so keep an eye on classes at [www.lingotot.com/centre/lingotot-west-oxford](http://www.lingotot.com/centre/lingotot-west-oxford) or email me to be added to my mailing list. Lingotot West Oxford will also offer sessions within nursery and preschool settings, alongside teaching in primary schools and after-school provision, so if you are an education provider then please do drop me a line at [westoxford@lingotot.com](mailto:westoxford@lingotot.com). I can't wait to see you all in class but in the meantime follow our adventures on Instagram and Facebook at @lingototwestoxford. A presto!



## Dough Wood Fired Pizza

Good food with family and friends has always been hugely important to us. This became even more important during the period of lockdown we have all experienced recently, when the promise of lovely food to eat became something as a family that we all looked forward to.

The unexpected time at home gave us the opportunity to spend more time making something that we love to eat, pizza! For a long time we have dreamt about having our own food business and as



we got better and better at making pizza, Dough Wood Fired Pizza started to become more than a dream. We love the village that we live in and have often talked about how great it would be to have something up here that provided great quality food at a reasonable price for the local community. So after lots of talking about it we thought, let's just do it!

So from Saturday 3rd April, Easter Saturday, you will find us spinning delightful dough discs of joy outside Upper

**Happy at Heart** is a community interest company based in the Cotswolds. Director Sue Barnes is passionate about empowering all individuals to be the best they can be and truly live their best life, 'Happy at Heart'.



Working with the children at The Rissington School over the last 4 years she has built a strong connection with many of the residents of the Rissingtons so in November when the second Lockdown hit, Sue set up Wellbeing Workshops for women in the local area via Zoom to give them a bit of a BOOST throughout the winter. These were subsidised by the Friends of Rissington School and Upper Rissington Parish Council and were originally meant to continue for 6 weeks in the run up to Christmas ... but are still going strong!

The ladies have lots of laughs each week while learning a series of simple, fun tools and techniques that slot into daily life easily. Over the last 3 months ladies attending have developed the skills to strengthen their ability to manage stress, anxiety and other emotional issues. Here are a few comments from some of the ladies who attend regularly:

*"I look forward to each session as it's relaxation time for me. I always come away having learned something new and feel so much more positive and able to cope with life's challenges"*

*"I really enjoy our weekly sessions, you've taught me how to change my mindset and to relax in different ways. In these difficult times you've given me something to look forward to each week"*

*"Sue creates sessions that relax the mind and the body. We have laughed, cried, fallen asleep and enjoyed an hour a week where everything is forgotten apart from our own wellbeing"*

*"Sue's classes are empowering, caring, and encouraging. I am definitely a calmer person and can't recommend her enough"*

If you think these sessions might interest you, please drop Sue an email at [susan@happyatheartcic.com](mailto:susan@happyatheartcic.com) for more details and costs.

Rissington Village Hall from 5.00 pm - 8.00 pm. Our style of pizza is fresh, hand stretched Neapolitan style wood fired pizza, with a very thin crust at the base and a dough edge (cornicione) that is crispy yet light and airy, deliciously fragrant with a soft, chewy texture.

We pride ourselves on knowing where the produce we use is from and have sourced some wonderful producers to use on our pizzas, using local and seasonal where possible. No pizza will be more than £10, unless you decide to go big on the pizza pimping!

Pre-order and contactless payment will keep everyone safe, with timed collection slots. How to order will be published on our Facebook and Instagram pages (@doughwoodfiredpizza) nearer the time.

Jay & Sarah Bowers  
Team Dough



# Useful Contacts In Upper Rissington

This is a list of people and organisations in Upper Rissington who provide goods or services in the village. Inclusion in this list is not a recommendation. If you would like your business included the cost will be £5 towards the printing costs of 'The Breeze'. Contact [URNEWS@btinternet.com](mailto:URNEWS@btinternet.com) or call 07592 533596 for more details.

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

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

The next issue of *the Breeze* is due to be published at the beginning of June 2021.

Please contact us at

[URNEWS@btinternet.com](mailto:URNEWS@btinternet.com) or call 07592 533596 if you would like to contribute articles or news items. The deadline for contributions is Friday 14th May 2021.

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



Photo courtesy of David Harrison February 2021