



The Breeze

Upper Rissington's Newsletter

Spring 2022

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Welcome to *The Breeze* - let's hope by the time this reaches you the winds have died down and the storms have departed without causing too many problems! I'm writing this from the Northumberland coast, but the winds here certainly remind me of Upper Rissington!

As usual, there is plenty going on in the village, and it's good to report some of it in *The Breeze*. But it's also good to include some of the things happening nearby that you might like to get involved with. This edition, we're pleased to have an article on The Wychwood Players (pages 10-11), so do have a look and see what they get up to - a new challenge for 2022, perhaps?

Another new challenge for you might be to write a gardening feature for *The Breeze*, as very sadly, this issue sees our last 'Gardening on the Hill' article by Polly Sayers (see pages 8-9). We are so grateful to Polly for all her contributions since *The Breeze* started, I don't think she has missed an issue. We will really miss her informative articles and the prompts to get out in the garden and reminders about which jobs we should be doing. Thank you so much, Polly, I for one have really appreciated your support. But if anyone would like to take on the task, please do get in touch (URNEWS@btinternet.com)!

I'm sure I say this every edition, but please do let us know if you have any comments or suggestions about *The Breeze* or if you would like to be involved in its production or distribution in any way - we are not an exclusive team and we really do want *The Breeze* to be something positive for the whole village, because it's a village worth being positive about!

Have a good Spring

Sue Handy (editor)

Village News

SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Red Riding Hood

At the start of the year we brought Chaplins travelling Panto group to the village for a performance of Red Riding Hood. This is the second time we've used this particular group after a great reaction to 2020's performance. They were no disappointment as the group were wonderfully talented and so engaging. We operated with a reduced audience to maintain safety and comfort for those who attended. You really would have thought it was a much larger audience from the liveliness and atmosphere generated by the actors. The children were loud and excited and looked to be having a terrific time.



We were grateful to the Parish Council for accepting our application for a grant towards the cost of running the event. The Social Committee uses its funds to bring events to the community. We endeavour to keep our events self-funding but in these more difficult times we have to be extra cautious. We need to maintain funds to ensure the future of community events and the costs associated with development of

the community assets (such as gazebos, barbecues and technology) vested in the Social Committee, so the grant helped a great deal in minimising the draw on Social Committee reserves. Thank you to the Parish Council.

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday 16th April 2022 11.00am Start

This year we're back to normal with the popular annual Easter Egg Hunt. We'll be running it completely as an outdoor event using the gazebos so it should be pretty safe.

The Hunt starts at 11am and we urge everyone who's taking part to arrive in advance. The briefing will start at 11am so you'll need to be there in time to hear it. We really don't want to disappoint any child so please help us in this by arriving on time.

The way the Easter Egg Hunt works is that all children taking part pay £1 for a stamp card. The card has four spaces so that each child has an opportunity to collect the same number of eggs: two cream eggs, one Smartie/Buttons type egg, and a snack bag. The Easter Egg Hunt is always both fun and energetic, allowing the children to burn off the eggs in advance.

We will be roping off a special area for the under 5s to keep them safe and give them their own space.

Enclosed with this edition of *The Breeze* you should have an A4 insert. This is there so it can be coloured-in and brought along on the day as an entry into the colouring competition. Once coloured-in, add the child's name and age, plus a means of contact so that we can get any prizes to them in the event they're not about at judging time (12.45pm). If the insert is spoiled or missing you can always get another one from the Social Committee Facebook page.

All ages are invited to join in the Easter Bonnet competition ready for judging at 12.30pm. Get creative and help make the day a special one for us all.

Summer Fete Saturday 2nd July 2022

12.00noon until 4.00pm

The plans for this year's Summer Fete are in full swing. We should be back to normal this year with all of the attractions that make the day so special. There will be a Bar, Barbecue and Cafe for refreshments. We'll have stalls, games, competitions, raffles and attractions. We'll have demonstrations of dance and self-defence. We'll have classic and performance cars, and hopefully a glider. One of the highlights will be the fun dog show, with plenty of categories for all ages of dog and handler. There'll be live music and a bouncy obstacle course, and of course there'll be cake baking and plant sales. So pen the date in your diary. We're back to our established date of the first Saturday in July.

The fete is a wonderful opportunity for community groups to entertain and raise funds for community projects so please come along and support the fete, meet up with old friends, and make new ones.

We've got a few new card machines so should be able to process payments at the bar and barbecue more quickly, but all other areas will work on cash, so please remember to bring plenty of change with you.

Future Plans

This year's events will be topped off in November with the Fireworks display so look out for details nearer the time.

Plans are also being made for village celebrations in June, for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee—see page 15 for more details.

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



PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

A slightly belated Happy New Year from the Parish Council (PC). We are still operating on a reduced number of councillors so the main purpose of this update is to serve as an appeal to the residents of the village to consider joining the PC. We have space for new and enthusiastic individuals to join, and if you can spare a couple of hours each week then please do consider it and help make Upper Rissington a better place to live for everyone.

The diversity of a Council is its strength and it allows us to make informed decisions at a local level that higher authorities are unable to achieve. A successful Council benefits from a broad range of skills and experience to best represent the whole of our community and I would encourage anyone who can offer a small amount of their time to get involved.

The more eagle-eyed of residents may have noticed that tentative work has begun on the bowling green – we can use this as a barometer as to when POS (Public Open Space) adoption might be approaching as it is one of the last significant projects requiring completion before we begin the handover process in earnest.

We now have meetings regularly scheduled with Vistry, every 6-8 weeks, which should go some way to making progress on the adoption of the POS ... exact date still to be confirmed, but we will keep you updated when we know more. For the meantime, the developers remain responsible for the upkeep and general maintenance of much of the village so if you do see an area that needs attention then please do keep the Parish Clerk informed and we will pass on the requirements to the Vistry management team for a swift resolution.

As a Council we have recently been discussing how best we can support the Jubilee celebrations later on in the year and have also tentatively discussed how we may mark the milestone collectively as a village. Further details to follow from the PC in due course, but in the meantime, I would encourage everyone to support the fantastic work being done to make the occasion by the Upper Rissington Jubilee Committee.

I would like to put on record our thanks to Kelvin Walker who recently stood down from the PC. He has invested great energy and used his extensive experience to make good progress on many issues but it has been his direct involvement with dealing with the developers and working towards that all important POS completion that has been incredibly helpful.

If you want all the latest, up-to-date information on what's happening with the Upper Rissington Parish Council then please head to the PC Website at www.upperrissington-pc.gov.uk . You can also “like” the URPC Facebook page to ensure you get direct updates with any articles shared from the website.

To end, I return to the start of this short article. Please do consider becoming a Parish Councillor: despite what you might think, it's actually a very interesting and rewarding role. If you are still unsure then you could consider attending a monthly meeting to see us conduct our business in a public forum, everyone is welcome. I promise, it's nothing like you've seen on the Vicar of Dibley ...

Andy Cairns

Chair, Upper Rissington Parish Council



The Rissingtons Local History Society

Our **January** talk on "The Archaeology of Stowe Landscape Garden" was excellent and well attended. Unfortunately **February's** talk on "RAF Brize Norton – over 80yrs of flying operations" – was cancelled due to the high winds. See below for new date. We have continued to meet face-to-face despite Covid, with precautions of wearing face masks and taking lateral flow tests on the day.

Forthcoming events:

Friday 11th March @ 7.30pm. *"William Morris and the car industry in Oxford"*

Alastair Lack - an Oxford Guide – will talk on the life of William Morris and the history of his company, culminating in the present BMW works in Cowley. This talk was booked for last year but, owing to the pandemic, had to be postponed as we plan a visit for members only to the Cowley works in April.

Venue – Upper Rissington School Hall GL54 2PL

Friday 25th March 2022 @ 2.30pm. *"RAF Brize Norton – over 80yrs of Flying Operations"*

– a talk by Trevor Jackson charting the activities from WW2, through the cold war, USAF and today's RAF operations (rebooked from Feb 18th due to high winds.)

Venue – Upper Rissington Village Hall GL54 2QW

Friday 20th May @ 7.30pm. *"How to get the best from Village Records"*

Rose Hewlett will talk on the numerous sources available to those wishing to understand more about where they live – most pertinent now that the 1921 Census has just been released to the Archives.

Venue – Upper Rissington School Hall GL54 2PL

Visitors welcome £3.50 to include refreshments.

Enquiries: email information.RLHS@gmail.com

or phone Sue Brown (01451 820233) or Sue Lee (01452 822692).

PIONEERS

Upper Rissington Pioneers is a group providing an opportunity for people to meet in the Village Hall Community Room, once a fortnight. There's a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, a cuppa, cake or a biscuit, and lots of interesting chat.

The group was formed in 2017, and was ideal for getting to know fellow villagers - with many of us having recently moved to Upper Rissington and not knowing anyone local. The group went from strength to strength. Visits to local beauty spots were organised and we had a regular monthly booking for a Sunday roast at a local establishment - we looked forward to that weekend. We also had a book swap table at our fortnightly meetings. Some good friendships have been made....THEN ALONG CAME COVID!!! And everything stopped. Many of us kept in contact via phone, FaceTime, etc. We enjoyed socially distanced chats while out on daily walks. We were so lucky to have such lovely walks here without having to leave the village.

Well, we are now looking forward and want to extend an invitation to anyone new to the village, or not new to the village, to join us - you will be made very welcome. We meet alternate Wednesdays (the same week the bins are collected) from 11 a.m. to 1p.m. Future dates are 2,16 & 30 March, 13 & 27 April. We ask for a £2 donation towards the cost of the hall hire and refreshments.

If you have any questions, please email urpioneers@gmail.com. We look forward to meeting you.

Marina (on behalf of the Pioneers Committee)

The Church in Upper Rissington

This year, 2022, marks a change for CUR:ve, the Church in Upper Rissington. In the last two years, when we have been able, we have been working more closely with Revd Rowena King, Rector of St Lawrence Church, Bourton and Revd Nina Summerfield, Associate Priest for the Rissingtons. Revd Nina became responsible for the Parish Churches of Great, Little & Wyck Rissington in November 2020, when she and her family moved to live here, in the village. We asked Revd Nina to tell us a little bit about herself and how she came to be here.

"I was very excited when I knew I would be coming to live in Upper Rissington and serving all four of the Rissington communities as their priest. We lived before in Lydney, but when Revd Rowena told me about the post working alongside her in this Benefice (group of churches), I felt a very strong nudge from God to apply. Seeing the vicarage at 6 De Havilland road for the first time I had a strong sense of familiarity because I grew up in married quarters, and so for me coming to an ex-military base is very much a homecoming.



It has been difficult in the last year of lockdowns, restrictions and masks to really get to know people as I would wish to do – but I am out and about a lot with our rescue dog "Pounce" and love it when people stop for a chat. Hopefully 2022 will see an end to the pandemic, the community will be able to open up and thrive, and I very much wish to be a part of that. I am genuinely here for everyone."

Revd Nina will lead most of the services and activities we have planned for the rest of the year.

We have planned at least one activity each month, suitable for all ages. They will all be at the Village Hall or start from the Village Hall, and will usually be either on the 1st or 3rd Sunday in the month at 3pm. On alternate months, it will be **Forest Church** – church for people who feel closer to God outside. We go for a walk within the village and there are opportunities to stop and reflect, listen to a reading or do an activity. Well-behaved dogs on leads are always welcome. Please note that the trail may be a little muddy in parts.

We would love to welcome you to any of the events we have planned.

Diary dates:

Sun 6 th March	Forest Church
Sun 3 rd April	Looking towards Easter
Sun 17 th April	Easter Sunday services at local churches
Sun 1 st May	Forest Church
Sun 19 th June	Pet Service
Sat 2 nd July	Forest Church at the Fete
Sun 21 st August	Picnic
Sun 4 th September	Forest Church
Sun 2 nd October	Harvest
Sun 6 th November	Forest Church
December	Carols by candlelight (date tbc)

Please look out for more details of these events nearer the time. If you would like to receive regular updates or require further information about any of these events, please email: revd.nina@summerfieldrissington.uk or phone 810309



A BUSY YEAR AHEAD

Before looking forward to 2022, a quick glance backwards.

In the last quarter of 2021 Rotary in the Rissingtons (RitR) cemented its relationship with **Riding for the Disabled** (RDA) in Cheltenham by working with them at two Junior Jumpers events, the November and New Year's Day race meetings. The RitR team was involved in helping over 200 children make colourful rosettes ... we were amateurs at the start, we are now professionals!! In addition, we presented a further cheque, our financial support now approaching £2000.

We celebrated our **Third Birthday** on 28 January. This was a great event attended by more than 40 folk who enjoyed pizza donated by Dough Wood Fired Pizza, thank you guys!!

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the **Brian Honess Community Award** to Ann Jordan for her dedication to helping organisations and individuals in the Rissingtons over many years.

So ... what is in store for 2022? Well, we shall support **RDA**, our involvement with the **Rissington School** will continue, there will be further distribution of **laptops** where required, there will be further involvement in the **Eradication of Polio campaign**, we hope to send more hand-tools to **Tanzania**, and we will be at the **Summer Fete**, where we hope to show you how to make a rosette!!



We shall organise a car **Treasure Hunt** and of course help **Santa** to "drive-by". If you like tea and superb cakes we shall be serving them at **Chastleton House** through the summer. The list goes on and on; examples of where RitR will continue to **Help our Community**.

We can be found planning the future in the UR Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. If this kind of thing *floats your boat* you will be very welcome to join us ... David Oliver just has.

Gardening On a Hill

I am starting this latest spring addition with some good/bad news depending on which way you look at it. I have decided this will be my last gardening article in *The Breeze*. The reason I am stopping right now is a personal one but I hope most people will understand when I say "It is the right time for me to stop and let somebody else put their garden ideas forward." I am sure there will be a long queue of folk.

When I started writing the gardening article for *The Breeze* a few years ago now, I was part of the team and we wanted a local newsletter that would inform the residents of Upper Rissington about what was going on in our village. We were a smaller village then and the development had just started. We have grown as a village and the gardening population has grown too. In the lockdown we had a perfect excuse to be outside in our own space and gardening increased as a result of that.

When I started writing I was a bit anxious as I didn't know what people wanted from a gardening article. I just started writing what I knew about and hoped people would get something from it. However I realise the way I garden is not for everyone. We all do things a little differently – and if you are inspired to put your ideas down on paper then my advice would be to give it a go and contact the *Breeze* team.

I have really enjoyed putting my seasonal gardening tips together and hopefully giving some of the residents of Upper Rissington a few ideas over the years. The *Breeze* team have allowed me to put my personal thoughts about gardening down on paper and I will be sorry not to be part of *The Breeze*, but as mentioned above, that's the bad part of moving on. However, I will not be idle.

Springtime

I always get excited with the start of spring. It's a time of regeneration and the start to a new year of production, especially on the allotment. The first sight of bulbs popping out of the soil is joyful and gives me a feeling of hope for the coming year. Getting excited by the sight of a small seed emerging and the thought of the harvest ahead always keeps me wanting to garden year after year.

My passion is wildlife gardening, and growing vegetables, of course. Improving our garden spaces for our wellbeing is very important too. But for me hearing the sound of wildlife in the garden is just so important. The birds, bees, and the sight of a butterfly is becoming increasingly rare these days. If not for bees there would be no fruit, flowers or food so it pays to make your garden bee-friendly and there's no time like the springtime to start. In sunny spots, sow clumps of bee-attractant flowering plants. There are lots of annuals you can sow now including borage, Californian poppy, bronze fennel, and poached-egg plant. The latter is useful sown around fruit bushes to attract aphid-eating predators.

Flowers in all parts of the garden will attract beneficial predators, such as hover flies, and thus avoid the need for harmful pesticide sprays. The sooner you fill your garden with the pest-eaters, the sooner you'll get the pests under control.



Hard-prune roses and clear away lingering dead leaves to remove remaining black-spot spores. Hoe weeds on sight, especially annual weeds before they can seed. If a frost is forecast, be sure to protect any tender plants.

Soil improvement

Living on a hill in the Cotswolds where the soil is scarce and at best full of stones can be a bit of a challenge, but plants will grow in the most difficult of places as long as you can offer the nutrients they need. Feeding the soil will feed the plant and the plant will feed us (in the case of fruits and vegetables), but mostly plants feed the wildlife in one form or another.

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.



Give established roses, herbaceous plants, climbers and bulbs a spring feed with garden compost. 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 take it down.

In the veg garden

As the soil warms up, apply mulches around and under established trees and fruit bushes. First remove existing weeds, then hoe carefully (avoiding roots) to expose pests to birds. (This is particularly useful to get rid of the gooseberry sawfly cocoons. Sawfly will eat and eventually defoliate the bushes.) Wait a few days, then mulch with well-rotted manure, garden compost or straw and hay (up to 10cm deep).

Use this month to pre-warm soils with a cloche or sheet of plastic for a week or two before sowing or planting. 'Top dress' overwintered crops, such as autumn-planted onions and cabbage, with some rich garden compost, or well-rotted manure. This will give them a boost for spring growth. Don't forget to plan a crop rotation for your fruit and veg. This helps prevent disease and makes best use of the soil's nutrition.



Dig up any potato plants from tubers left in the ground from last year, they could be carrying the potato blight fungus. They can be composted, but smash them well first. Bury stems and stumps of overwintered brassicas in the compost heap as soon as they have finished cropping. This will help reduce the population of mealy aphids and whitefly which otherwise would simply move on to your spring-planted crops.

Allotments: Here we go again!

I would like to find out what is happening with our allotments, as I am sure most of you would. I would also like to know why after 10 years we are still waiting for our allotments. As many readers will know, in 2011 ten local residents wrote to the Parish Council with a request to provide allotments. Over the years we have gone back and forth to the Council, which to be fair has had many clerks and a wide turn over of councillors and the new development to deal with. Of course allotments seem to have always been put on the back burner.

Under Section 23 of the 1908 Small Holdings and Allotment Act, the Parish Council had a mandatory obligation to provide allotments. However we are still waiting. So if anyone knows what is happening, and why some of the land allocated for allotments has now been fenced off, I would be grateful if you could enlighten me.

Happy Gardening!
Polly

Wychwood Players

- Bringing Drama to the Cotswolds

Have you ever watched a performance on stage and marvelled at the talent and synchronicity of a whole cast? What about the colourful costumes and the sets that are all pulled together in the name of entertainment? From my seat in the audience, I have always imagined it to be a great environment to be part of. As for the kids, they are going to *The Very Top* with such confidence and resilience! I also appreciate how they inspire my own children. It's been some time since I've attended a live performance but 5 months ago, I pivoted from wanting to be in the audience to being on the stage. I became a member of a local amateur dramatics group called The Wychwood Players and I would like to share my experience with you as it may be something you would enjoy too.

When I joined the Wychwood Players, the group immediately taught me that there's a place for everyone in amateur dramatics. The youngest member is 3 and for the oldest member, I will not mention their age. The entire group gives you the courage to try new things with no judgement, just support with their own talents and voluntary time. I'm constantly entertained in this social and creative environment, especially by the Director. This brings me onto the most important point, the Wychwood Players is an incredibly diverse and inspiring group of people and I enjoy their company on a weekly basis at rehearsals. This group has given me the energy that I have been missing for a long time.

My husband James and I moved our young family from the London suburbs of Surrey to Upper Rissington 18 months ago, immediately after being released from the first UK lockdown, and we knew nobody in the area. Thanks to initiatives such as *The Breeze*, we have joined a wonderful growing community and have met so many interesting people as a result. However, weekdays can be quite monotonous unless I take the dog for a walk. Like for so many, the pandemic has altered our way of working. I am now a full time "remote worker"! My good friend jokingly calls my office "The Call Centre". Regardless, I'm grateful for the comfort of my home with a dog at my feet during meetings, the CO₂ saved from travelling to the office, my effortless access to the fridge and my extra stretchy leggings. Since joining the Wychwood Players, when I'm not remotely working, I'm traveling 15 minutes down the road to Upper Milton, practising my voice warm-ups in the car like Pavarotti would, preparing to enter the creative world of the Wychwood Players.

Our latest production is a hilarious pantomime called King Arthur and by the time this publication of *The Breeze* has landed with you, King Arthur will have been performed to a live audience at the Beaconsfield Hall in Shipton Under Wychwood. You may have spotted this poster around the village?

If you were able to see us perform, I was a member of The Chorus, singing and tap-dancing on pure adrenalin and joy. Perhaps you saw our highly amusing 6'4" Dame, Queen Guinevere. What a woman. In fact, our Dame also recently moved to the village from America and he is joined by his equally talented daughter who plays Lancelot.



In the future, it's likely you'll see my 11 year old son, who has asked to join the associated Wychwood Saplings group to be part of the cast and music department. I'd like to think that my tap-dancing whilst cooking dinner has inspired him. I don't think he'll ever forget the day I got my first tap shoes at the age of 42, I certainly won't.

If you or anyone else you know would like to be part of what I have described here, other than the remote working call centre, connect directly with me or just internet search "Wychwood Players" for this site: <https://www.wychwoodplayers.com/>. You'll be amazed at what talents can be rediscovered in the right environment surrounded by great people. To witness this, we encourage you to come and see our future performances. We're doing it for the community after all.

Alison Robinson-Wyatt



As 2022 races onwards things are as busy as ever at Lingotot West Oxford. 2022 has seen us take on a new teacher this year so we are able to continue with our expansion plans, adding Spanish into the mix and working with more schools across more locations in West Oxfordshire.



At the time of going to press we are busy preparing our February camps which see us partnering again with Happy at Heart CIC for those mindful moments and bringing the circus to Mitchell Way with local circus skills provider, School of Larks. We are having more fun than ever planning our holiday clubs at the Rissington School and our big plans for 2022 see us launching our holiday clubs to a wider audience as we expand to Witney during the summer. Our clubs here will continue with sales for our French and Italian Easter clubs well underway and plans for the summer months coming together, when we will bring our summer festival of languages back for a second year running.

And for the grown ups ... LingoChat French is now underway at the Hangar, and we hope to restart a preschool group in due course too.

For any enquiries into our courses please drop me a note to westoxford@lingotot.com and be sure to keep an eye on our socials (Facebook and Instagram @lingototwestoxford) so you hear first about our plans.

As ever, thank you to the wonderful community of Upper Rissington for supporting and sharing in the language love. Un bacio come sempre

Catherine xx



NEWS FROM BARNARDO'S

2022 has brought lots of changes in store at Barnardo's! We are now lucky enough to be carrying brand-new Jack Wills and French Connection. These ranges are all sent directly to us from our head office, so although the price may be slightly different to other items in store, they are still a fraction of what you would pay on the high street. They are selling fast though, so make sure you pop in to see if there is anything to suit your taste!

We are also now stocking haberdashery items and a lovely new brand of scented candles and wax melts, which smell divine.

January has seen us welcome an increased number of people doing their Duke of Edinburgh award. We would like to take this opportunity to say how blown away we are by them all; we include those young people who have been volunteering with us for some time in this too! They all work so hard; from the moment they arrive, and are a real pleasure to have in-store. Their insight into new trends, their creativity when it comes to displaying stock and their general attitude to work is fab, so we would like to say a big thank you and well done to them!

This year is shaping up to be an exciting year, we have some great fundraising events planned over the next 12 months along with the introduction of lots more new stock. We have also had some amazing stock donated, from Irregular Choice shoes, brand new Ugg boots and Louboutin heels to Hobbs coats, Emma Bridgewater crockery and Michael Kors handbags, if you have never come in-store to have a look around, make sure you do, we are no ordinary charity shop! Stock changes daily so there is always something different to tempt you!

Speaking of donations, since the last *Breeze* article we have had almost no bags left outside the store when we are closed. This is a massive change! Thank you so much, it really makes a real difference to us. We are open 7 days a week, 9am -5pm, and try to take donations most days. If you would like to call before you come up to check, our number is 01451 821102. We can take bric-a-brac, clothing of all kinds, books, and toys. Unfortunately, we are currently unable to take furniture, electrical items or DVDs/CDs.

We still have openings for more volunteers, particularly on a Friday, so if you would like to join our friendly team, swing by and have a chat. Thank you, as always, to ALL our regular volunteers who give up so much of their spare time to support us. We couldn't do what we do without you.

We look forward to seeing you in-store soon!

Nicola, Heather and the team.



PUZZLE BREEZE

A Spring-time challenge! How many words of 3 or more letters can you make from the grid? You may use each letter only once and must track from letter to letter, moving vertically, horizontally, or diagonally. Can you find the 9-letter word? You might find some growing on the verges in the village!

I	N	E
D	E	C
N	A	L

easter egg hunt



Saturday 16th April 2022 11:00am - 1:00pm
Upper Rissington Village Hall

Event starts at 11am. Please arrive promptly to guarantee a place.
Buy your child an 'Eggschange card' for £1 on arrival, includes refreshments.
Bring your completed Easter poster and Easter Bonnet to join the competition.

Colouring competition | Easter bonnet competition | Tea, coffee and cakes for sale

Thanks to the Upper Rissington Co-op and Tesco Stow-on-the-Wold for their 'eggcellent' donations.

Behind the Road Names in Upper Rissington – part 16a

Westland Close

Westland Aircraft was a British aircraft manufacturer located in Yeovil, Somerset. Formed as a separate company by separation from Petters Limited just before the start of the Second World War, Westland had been building aircraft since 1915.

During the war the company produced a number of generally unsuccessful designs but their Lysander would serve as an important liaison aircraft with the RAF.

After the war the company focused on helicopters and was merged with several other British firms to create Westland Helicopters in 1961.



Westland Lysander, flying example at Shuttleworth, 2004 (Paul Maritz)

After the war, the company began to build helicopters under a licensing agreement with Sikorsky. From the mid-1950s the company came to increasingly concentrate on helicopters, eventually to

the exclusion of other types. After the success of the Westland Dragonfly helicopter based on the Sikorsky S-51, they repeated this with the Sikorsky S-55, which became the Whirlwind, and a re-engined Sikorsky S-58, which became the Wessex.



Westland Wessex parked near an RAF Little Rissington hanger September 2011 (David Harrison)

the P.531, which found favour with the Army Air Corps and Fleet Air Arm respectively.

In the late 1960s, the company began a collaboration with Aérospatiale to design three new helicopters, the Aérospatiale Puma, Aérospatiale Gazelle and Westland Lynx, with the last being a Westland design.

In the 1980's the company gradually fell into unprofitability. Sikorsky approached with a bail-out deal in 1985, which was finally accepted. This saw both Sikorsky and Fiat acquire minority shareholdings in Westland. In 1988 GKN bought a 22% share of Westland.



Westland Lynx helicopters of the Royal Navy Black Cats display team

In the 1990's, the company returned to profitability and grew as a result of several major contracts from the UK Ministry of Defence for EH101 Merlin helicopters and for 67 licence-built Boeing AH-64 Apache attack helicopters, designated the WAH-64 and entering full operational service in 2005.

With further mergers and joint ventures, GKN confirmed that it had agreed to sell its share of AgustaWestland to Finmeccanica in May 2004, which was approved by the British government in October 2004. The former Westland site at the now unused airfield in Weston-super-Mare houses The Helicopter Museum, featuring a number of examples of Westland aircraft.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Party in The Park

Saturday 4th June 2022

Update from the Jubilee Committee

A little while ago the Parish Council proposed that the village groups should work together to focus the community on an event celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The baton has been picked up and we've established a group consisting of representatives of a number of the village voluntary organisations. There are representatives from Upper Rissington Parish Council, The Social Committee, The Pioneers and CURve, Rotary, Rissington School and The Friends of Rissington School. After the first meeting draft plans were drawn up for a celebration on Saturday 4th June. This will leave streets free to organise street-level parties on Sunday 5th June in line with many people's wishes.

For the event on 4th June we are well into the organisation of a Party in The Park. The intention is that families, groups of friends and community organisations can plan to be on the grass field behind the Village Hall, bringing their own food and drink. The committee is organising live music from 4pm until 7pm. We currently have two bands confirmed and are waiting confirmation of a third. There will be a broad range of music tastes catered for and an atmosphere that will promote a celebration of the occasion. For those who may have difficulty carrying chairs there will be a limited supply available from the Village Hall. This is quite important as we'd rather you didn't drive as parking is very limited and we expect many of you will enjoy a drink to celebrate the day. So leaving the car behind will leave you free to enjoy the day. Dogs will be very welcome to come and join in the fun but given the nature of the day, with open food on display, our dogs will have to be on their leads.

Included in the plans are children dressing as Royals and parading from the school to the park to kick off the celebrations.

It should be a great start to a weekend of celebrations and we hope that you'll make plans to join in to create a truly memorable celebration of a very special occasion.

More information will be shared as we approach the date, through Facebook and posters. If you have any questions then please address them in the first instance to Kath Finch on kathfinchis@gmail.com.



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Although there are some great deals around, if you are committed to the school holidays, we recommend that you book as soon as possible. But if you are thinking of a visit to see Santa in Lapland, these are nearly sold out for 2022, but trips for 2023 are already on sale, so don't delay.

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Please come and see us in the office, or I am always happy to come and meet you here in the village.

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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 Parish Council website 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		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		Parish Clerk (as above) or PC website www.upperrissington-pc.gov.uk/village-hall	
The Breeze	Newsletter	URNEWS@btinternet.com	07592 533596
Pioneers		urpioneers@gmail.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 2022.

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 13th May 2022.

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



Photo courtesy of David Harrison February 2021