



## *Upper Rissington's Newsletter*

### Winter 2022

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Welcome to Winter! Well, it's certainly beginning to feel a bit more like it, but hopefully a new edition of 'The Breeze' will prove warming and cheering, whatever the weather outside!

We don't have quite as many articles this quarter as usual (I think everyone is busy!), but lots of adverts for events for you to enjoy over the festive period, so do have a look and see if there are things you would like to support. Also, don't forget that we are always happy (delighted?) to receive articles to consider for inclusion in 'The Breeze', so if there is something you are passionate about or that you think will be of interest to other members of the community, please do send something in. Any comments and suggestions are also welcome, so do contact us (email [URNEWS@btinternet.com](mailto:URNEWS@btinternet.com)), we'd love to hear from you.

Whatever you're up to over the next quarter, stay safe and warm and well. On behalf of 'The Breeze' team, have a joyful Christmas and a good start to the New Year.

Sue Handy

# Village News

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

### **Fireworks Night Goes with a Bang**

It's really rewarding when we run events that are well supported and enjoyed by the community. This year's fireworks display was one of our most successful. We had terrific weather for the event which brought out the crowds. We are so fortunate in our community to have so many willing hands whose volunteer effort spreads the load so well. It can be daunting when you look at the marquees, tables, stock and litter after a busy day of preparing for the event and an evening serving the community. It's possibly the most excited you can get when you see the volunteers just appear and commence the backbreaking tasks such as taking down the marquees, returning heavy fridges to store, packing up stock and returning it to the store room, breaking down tables, tidying up and generally working magic.



Those who might be tempted to criticism of 'today's youth' might be surprised by the general politeness of the children of our village. Beyond this are the 136 Chipping Norton Air Force Cadets who were amazing in the way they worked so willingly to help the event run smoothly. So many individuals to thank but the main message is how blessed we are as a community to have people that freely inconvenience themselves to make our events work so well.

The success of the event was on so many levels. It's not a ticket event so we aren't clear on exact numbers that attend. However we ran out of our stock of over 500 portions on the BBQ and we raised over £1,000 from the bucket collection. As these were record events we have to judge that we had record attendance. While our costs were increased substantially this year we managed to



maintain our previous prices across most of the stalls but still managed to add £700 to our reserves. This is important as our reserves enable us to buy community assets such as the Marquees and to fund stock and prepayments so that we can arrange these events. Along with the fireworks, bar, BBQ and stalls we had entertainment provided by the brilliant Paige and The Red Shift. As always, their music was just right helping maintain the atmosphere of a wonderful evening enjoyed by so many.

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

Pop down to this year's Great Rissington Christmas Tree Festival at St John the Baptist Church, on Saturday 10th December 10am-6pm and Sunday 11th December 12noon-6pm. This year's theme is "Anniversaries", so I wonder what the different groups have come up with, including the one created for the UR Social Committee by Jill Harrison, ably assisted by our Treasurer David Harrison. I won't reveal their theme but as always, Jill's creativity and eye for detail is bound to impress.



## Upcoming Events

### Panto

This years Panto is Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The Panto has been provided by the travelling troupe, Chaplins Mini Pantos. They're a talented group that have entertained us for the past couple of years. It's not a major production with a cast of thousands but it is an atmospheric and entertaining show. They really manage to bring the spirit of Panto to our village. The Panto is on 30th December; the doors will open at 3.30pm and the Panto will start at 4.00pm. Tickets are the same price for adults and children at £7.50 but the children's tickets (under 11s) include a hot dog and a drink. Tickets will be available from a link in the Upper Rissington Social Committee Facebook page or direct from our online store at <https://upper-rissington-social-committee.sumupstore.com/> or you can email us at [ursc@btinternet.com](mailto:ursc@btinternet.com). Please get your tickets as early as possible as we are limited by the seating capacity of the Village Hall. There will be coffee and tea available to purchase.



### Easter Egg Hunt

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt is planned for Saturday 8th April. Details will be provided in the next edition of *The Breeze*.

### Summer Fete

Our Summer Fete is traditionally on the first Saturday of July. So if you're interested in a stall or plan on attending please make a note in your diary.

### A late Thank You

In the last edition we thanked so many people for their support of our fete. Unfortunately I omitted a thank you to the organisation that supplied all of the prizes for the dog show. They were so friendly and generous we felt we should correct the oversight with a special thank you to Pet Necessities Ltd of Moreton in Marsh.



### Committee News

We are a growing village and our events provide an opportunity for new neighbours to meet and perhaps develop friendships or inspire new community enterprises. The Social Committee is focused on running four key events every year: a children's event at the beginning of January; the Easter Egg Hunt at Easter; the Summer Fete; and the Fireworks Display. We rely so much on the unstinting support of our volunteers. If you'd like to get involved as an 'on-the-day helper' or you'd like to be considered for the Committee, please email us at [ursc@btinternet.com](mailto:ursc@btinternet.com). You will be sure of a warm welcome.

Come and join us for coffee and a chat in the Community Room at the Village Hall on alternate Wednesday mornings.

# PIONEERS



Dates for the next 3 months:

December 7th  
February 1st & 15th

January 4th & 18th  
March 1st, 15th & 29th

# Parish Council Update



## "Be Like Dan"

More on Dan later ... but first some breaking news from the Parish Council. We're pleased to announce that we have signed a licence with Vistry to allow us to use the Allotments and Tennis Courts ahead of the formal handover of the Public Open Space. As part of our social responsibility, we had an objective to get allotments in use as soon as possible so that it might help with the ongoing cost of living crisis and help alleviate some of the financial strains by hopefully growing our own fruit and vegetables. This is a significant milestone in the overall process and brings forward the ability to use these facilities that would have otherwise had to wait until handover.

We've also recently relaunched the Parish Council Website, with a much fresher and hopefully easier to navigate look and feel. You'll find the regular updates from the council meeting minutes (and agendas) plus the how to book the Village Hall for all your events and activities. There's also a new facility to sign up for notifications when new articles are posted. Please do have a look – all feedback genuinely appreciated.

We recently applied for, and were granted, part-funding for a second defibrillator in the village, and the purchase/fitting is being organised as we speak. We have agreement from Dragon Vets to locate it on the side of their building so that coverage across the village is greatly improved; this also offers some resilience should either machine be put into use (whilst waiting for it to be reset).

In my last article for the Breeze I mentioned the Bowling Green being a good indicator of how close we are to POS handover and most of you will have seen it's pretty much complete (bar a fence around it). We are now working with Vistry to come up with the formal handover plan and I hope I will have much broader details in the next couple of months.

Of course, in order to get over the final few hurdles, and release the village from the grasp of the developers (who have been here far too long), there's still a fair bit of work to be done, and this leads me on to an appeal for your help. We still have three vacant seats on the URPC and we are always looking for people to come and help the cause and give up a little bit of their time to make a difference. I occasionally hear that people are unsure about what is involved so I asked one of our newer councillors for a few words on why they joined the Parish Council about this time last year. Here's what Cllr Dan Holden says:

"In 2021, I applied to be a Councillor having seen the positive difference that a sense of community can make. I spent a lot of time, even before the pandemic, working from home which allows me to walk everyday around our wonderful village.

Wanting to do more to support the future developments of Upper Rissington, I wanted to share my skills as a Chartered Public Relations professional to help residents feel better informed about the activities of the Council.

I had no idea originally what being a Parish Councillor involves but having joined a couple of meetings, just as an observer (which everyone in the village is welcome to do), it wasn't as daunting as I thought.

I'd encourage anyone to come along and speak to us to find out more about what we do. The time commitment isn't as bad as you might be thinking. Do stop me anytime if you spot me out walking as I'll be happy to chat."

If you are thinking of joining us please do get in touch with Dan, me, any of the councillors or Vanessa the Parish Clerk, and we would be more than happy to explain more. It is an extremely valuable and rewarding role in the community and with many emerging projects coming up over the next few years it will be a really interesting time for the village. We need your help to make Upper Rissington the best it possibly can be.

So, all that's left is for me, on behalf of everyone at the Parish Council, to wish you, your friends and families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Here's to 2023!

**Andy Cairns (Chair, Upper Rissington PC)**

## **Rissingtons Local History Society**

We enjoyed an excellent visit in **September** to Gloucester Cathedral's Medieval Library where we were shown manuscripts with Rissington in them and old maps. In **October**, we celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a good gathering of members; some founder and past committee members attended for the celebration. It was lovely to welcome them. The talk that followed, "**Robert Dudley, Queen Elizabeth and the Kenilworth Entertainment of 1575**" by Gillian White was excellent, witty and full of historical facts. In **November**, we will have had Mike Hurst on "**Getting around in the 60's**" when the first motorways and package holidays started, including the birth of cruising and the decline of the railways. Should be fascinating, especially to the babyboomers!

There will be a special **members only event** on 2nd December – details sent separately – so Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to our members and future members.

### Forthcoming events:

#### **Friday 20th January 2023 @ 2.30pm. "Gloucestershire's Queen – Katherine Parr"**

- a talk by Mike Bottomley, telling the largely unknown story of her life, ending at Sudeley Castle.

**Venue** Upper Rissington Village Hall GL54 2QW

#### **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023 @ 2.30pm. "Road Travel and Transport in Georgian Gloucestershire – Inns and Traffic in the coaching age"**

- a talk by Nicholas Herbert on how it all developed and the various stagecoach services competing for customers.

**Venue** Upper Rissington Village Hall GL54 2QW

**Visitors Welcome £3.50** to include refreshments.

For enquiries, contact [information.RLHS@gmail.com](mailto:information.RLHS@gmail.com) or Kate O'Brien 07815 606770

## **Birthday Celebrations**

The Rissingtons Local History Society celebrated their 30th Anniversary on October 14th with help from some of their founder members - pictured (from left to right) are Mike Boyes, Sheila Jesson, Jenny Surch and David Bishop







# CHRISTMAS IS ROUND THE CORNER

Rotary in the Rissingtons (RitR) has been so busy since the last issue of the Breeze I need more than our regular space to tell you about it.

Firstly, the death of Her Majesty the Queen forced us to postpone the Pizza and Quiz Night, but more of that later. The Treasure Hunt "revisited" held in October was a great success, finishing up at the Cotswold Barn for prizegiving. We have delivered the Tools for Africa to Crickhowell where they begin their journey to Mwanza in Tanzania. Most prized were the six sewing machines. Each of these will form the nucleus of a new business to support local families. Purple 4 Polio, the international Rotary campaign to eradicate polio, resulted in presentations being given to 550 children at the Rissington and Bourton Primary Schools. They listened intently to what was being said, taking particular interest in the simple precaution of hand-washing after going to the toilet!! Funds were raised to vaccinate 1500 children in Pakistan and Afghanistan against polio. RitR was also visible at the local fireworks and at the November Cheltenham Race Meeting where we supported Riding for the Disabled.



Looking ahead, we launch the **Community Award** scheme before Christmas with the presentation taking place in January. Get your thinking caps on ... check out the blue posters with more information and get voting. Look out for our very own **Drive-By Santa** on Christmas Eve!! The rescheduled **Pizza and Quiz Night** will be held in the **Village Hall** on **Saturday 21 January**. Questions will be put by our very own "professional" Quiz Master and pizza will be provided by Dough Wood Fired Pizza. Bar opens at 7pm and tickets, £10 a head, can be purchased online at: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/rotary-club-of-the-north-cotswolds/t-vvxagql>. All funds raised will be donated to Headspace our new charity. Headspace exists to help young people to cope with the struggles of daily life, to empower them to understand their mental health and, with coping strategies, go on to lead enriched lives.

If you like what you read, come and find the gang in the UR Village Hall at 7.30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. and

## Tree!

What should you do if you're concerned about something in the village? Well, what about writing to the Parish Council (PC)? That's just what one young member of the community did recently. Ella Fox was concerned that the removal of the trees to provide the new Bowling Green would take away homes for the birds, so she wrote to the PC.

The PC were impressed that someone so young took the time to write in that they gave her a small grant to purchase a tree that she could plant. Fosse Way Garden Centre kindly discounted the cost of a Himalayan Weeping Birch.



With help from Dad Tim (chair of Governors at The Rissington School), Andy Cairns (chair of PC), and Andrew Mitchell (chair of Rotary in the Rissingtons), Ella set to and planted the tree. It's nice to know that public bodies do read and take note of people's concerns. Well done Ella – and the PC!

# Who is your local hero in The Rissingtons?

Who in The Rissingtons has really made a difference to you in 2022?

They could be the fourth annual winner of the Brian Honess Community Award, judged by Rotary in the Rissingtons

Just email their name and why you think they should win, or for further details to [ritrinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ritrinfo@gmail.com)



**Rotary in the Rissingtons**  
Helping Our Community



## DRIVERS URGENTLY NEEDED IN BOURTON AREA AS SERVICE DEMAND INCREASES

Local charity Cotswold Friends is putting out a plea for drivers in the Bourton-on-the-Water area and surrounding villages, as the demand on its Community Transport Service continues to increase. Over 1,600 people living in the Cotswolds use Cotswold Friends' Community Transport Service, with more than 12,000 journeys undertaken by the charity's volunteer drivers last year for medical, social and practical reasons – that's over 230 drives on average every week of the year.

Jo Hammond, CEO of Cotswold Friends said, "With many hospitals catching up with appointments after the pandemic, plus the roll-out of this season's COVID and flu vaccinations, many of our older, vulnerable clients are needing transport to medical appointments right now. This is putting pressure on our existing volunteer drivers and our Community Transport service as a whole, which is vital to so many older and vulnerable people who do not have access to public transport or find it difficult to use.

"Volunteering is enjoyable and rewarding, and there is so much to be gained from it. Our drivers tell us that they feel more connected to their community and enjoy meeting new people, often making friends for life. Drivers are paid up to 50p per mile which significantly helps with the running costs of their vehicle. You'll be at the heart of delivering our mission to reduce isolation and support older and vulnerable people to live independently."

Carolyn Roberts is a Cotswold Friends volunteer driver in the village of Hazleton. She says: "I was interested in becoming a volunteer because my mother lived alone in a tiny hamlet with no public transport, and when she stopped driving, she was very isolated.

"What I enjoy about volunteering for the charity is the chance to meet other people in the locality and discovering local communities that are new to me. The role is flexible, which is good for me, as I enjoy helping people, but I can't commit to being part of a team."

A driving role at Cotswold Friends provides complete volunteering flexibility. Drivers can let the charity's Booking Office know when they want to drive and what types of journey they are happy to do; some drivers like local drives, others prefer longer journeys.



If you think volunteer driving could be for you, get in touch with Cotswold Friends' Volunteer Manager, Sheryl Murray, on 01608 697007 or email [volunteering@cotswoldfriends.org](mailto:volunteering@cotswoldfriends.org).



# **Great Rissington Christmas Tree Festival**

**At St John's Church**

**SATURDAY, 10th DECEMBER**

**10.00am – 6.00pm**

**SUNDAY, 11th DECEMBER**

**12pm – 6pm**

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*Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 4pm  
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*Everyone Welcome!*

# The Children's Christmas Show!

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Mini Pantos

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SHOW"

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**Appearing** Upper Rissington Village Hall - 30 Dec 22

Doors open 3.30pm, Panto starts 4pm

Tickets £7.50 (hotdog & drink included for under 11's) email

[urrc@btinternet.com](mailto:urrc@btinternet.com) or see Social Committee FB page for tickets



# Come and join us!

## Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January



Rotary in the Rissingtons  
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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) for more details.

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

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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>	
Village Hall		Parish Clerk (as above) or PC website	
The Breeze	Newsletter	<a href="mailto:URNEWS@btinternet.com">URNEWS@btinternet.com</a>	
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Pete Garrett	Great Rissington Cricket Club - Juniors	<a href="mailto:Petegarratt117@gmail.com">Petegarratt117@gmail.com</a>	07788 896496

The next issue of 'The Breeze' is due to be published at the beginning of March 2023. Please contact us at [URNEWS@btinternet.com](mailto:URNEWS@btinternet.com) if you would like to contribute articles or news items. The deadline for contributions is

**Friday 17 February 2023**

For advertising enquiries you can also email  
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(photo courtesy David Harrison)