



Upper Rissington's Newsletter

Summer 2023

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Welcome to the Summer edition of *The Breeze*! The sun is shining as I write this, so hopefully it will continue for a bit longer yet (though I'm sure the gardeners are already longing for some rain!). But whatever the weather decides to do, there looks to be plenty going on in Upper Rissington and round-about to keep you busy over the coming months.

We have another bumper issue this quarter, with lots of posters from local organisations advertising one-off and regular events, so have a look through and see if there is anything that might interest you. We also have lots of calls for volunteers - including one from the team here at *The Breeze*! Without volunteers, so many organisations and activities just wouldn't be able to happen, but I know many of us find it hard to find the time and energy to commit. Do have a look, though, and consider if you might be able to help. Most volunteers are very ordinary people, and you might just find a new talent you didn't know you had!

This edition features a welcome return from Gardening on a Hill (p4-5), for a one-off article to highlight the new allotments, so many thanks to Polly for writing this. There is also the first in a new series featuring Local Walks (p14-16), put together by David Harrison - do let us know how you get on!

Enjoy the summer,

Sue Handy (editor)

UPPER RISSINGTON SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE



Easter Egg Hunt

For anyone wondering where the Summer sun is this year, well, we had it on Saturday 8th April. It was a glorious day where the sun shone and the grass was dry enough for families to sit and enjoy their picnics after a high-energy hunt. Numbers were a little less than previous years with around 180 children participating. This year was probably the first 'normal' year following Covid and we think that many families were enjoying well-earned holidays, so not around on the day. We also think that 180 will represent a more normal number so we will cater for around 200 children in the future. This year we estimated around 250 which meant we had an awful lot left over. This was good news for the North Cotswold Food Bank, who sent the village a lovely letter thanking it for the donation of 16.64 kilograms of snacks and Easter Eggs. We were assured that, although the children receiving the

eggs would be getting them a little late, they would none-the-less be enormously grateful for them. Nothing goes to waste.

We were grateful to the Parish Council for the £500 grant they gave us for the Panto and the Easter Egg Hunt. As we only used £285 of the grant for the Panto we had £215 left to apply to the costs of the Easter Egg Hunt. The net effect after all costs, £1 entry fees, refreshment sales and grant was a reduction to the Social Committee reserves in the order of £125. We regard that as a great result given the positive feedback we had from the day.



Thank You to those who made the effort to help along the atmosphere by making colourful and joyous Easter Bonnets and 'Thank You' to the wonderful budding artists in the village who entered the colouring competition. Mostly though we need to give a great big 'Thank You' to the volunteers who again turned out in numbers to help set up and run the event. The committee couldn't hope to run busy events like this without your help and they wouldn't be nearly as much fun without your good humour and spirit, Thank You.



Upcoming Events

Annual Village Fete

Make sure you're not on holiday on Saturday 1st July between 12 and 4pm. That's when we expect the next bright and sunny day of our rather damp year so far. The Village Fete is a great opportunity to meet up with friends and neighbours. We always have a fabulous team serving up delicious options from the barbecue, wonderful homemade cakes from the cafe, and refreshing drinks from the bar.

The day will start with a display of song and dance talent from the children of The Rissington School and more dancing from the skilful group taught by Becky Clark. The range of activities will test you, Nicola Wemyss will test your stamina with 'The Plank Challenge' then, if you've any strength left, you can enter the Tug of War (to be confirmed). For dog lovers, come and show off the talents and perhaps the quirks and idiosyncrasies of your own beloved pet in our regular Fun Dog Show. We'll have an inflatable obstacle course, Raffle, Plant Stall, Games and Competitions. All of this will be to the background of local talented live music, including Flora Kenning who's done so well for us at past events.



Along with the stalls we will have Classic Cars on display and we hope that the local neighbourhood Police might be there to offer advice and mark up bicycles as a deterrent to their theft.

The Fete as always is free admission but bring plenty of change for the fun stalls, competitions, tombola and raffle. We welcome volunteer support, plant and cake donations, so if you can help out please contact Kath (Finch) through ursc@btinternet.com.

Fireworks Display

Keep your eyes open for the Fireworks Display in November. Remember that we always have it a week late for two reasons. Firstly it allows residents of Upper Rissington to join friends and family at other local displays. Secondly, it keeps the costs manageable as having it a week late has a significant impact on costs. It's always a big night with a big attendance enjoying the fireworks, live music, food and drink. More information closer to the time.

Committee News

As a growing village we need our events to 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 towards the end of the Christmas break; the Easter Egg Hunt; 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. You will be sure of a warm welcome.

Soup and Roll Lunch

The Soup and Roll lunches on alternate Wednesdays in the Village Hall (12.00-2.00pm) have proved so popular that we are going to continue for the month of June, before breaking for the summer. The next dates are: June 14th and 28th.

We plan to restart in the autumn, so please look out for more information nearer the time.

Many thanks to everyone who has made soup, those who have helped set up, serve and clear away- and everyone who has come along and enjoyed it!



Gardening On a Hill

Many of you will remember my articles in the Breeze, "Gardening on the Hill". Or maybe not. I had to stop writing them in Spring 2022 because of my increasing care load at home. My husband and I care for his 94yr old mother. She has early onset dementia, so finding the time to do extra activities these days is quite difficult. However, activities that help you cope with the things that life throws at you are always good for the soul. For me it is gardening and nature. I always try to fit these activities into my daily routine. If the weather permits.

In the past I have written about how gardening and growing your own food can be so positive for health and wellbeing, and having our new allotments here in Upper Rissington will help towards getting that for many local people.

I have written about the journey to getting this growing space for our community many times in the Breeze. So It feels nice to finally put the good news out there and finish the story on a high. At the same time I thought it might be helpful to some people to give some informative ideas regarding the difficulty we might have growing things on that site and how we can find ways to improve it for the crops we are going to grow.

The site is on a north-facing slope and on top of a hill. This means it remains colder for longer in the spring mainly because the sun is low in the sky. Frost can also sit on the ground on some disadvantaged plots for most of the day. Whatever you can do in the way of covering the soil with a mulch or plastic early-on can help heat up the soil temperature substantially. It also helps with retaining valuable moisture.

At the moment the allotments do not have access to water apart from one tap at the gate. The Council have plans in place to fit water tanks on all access paths. We don't know as yet when that work will be done, so in the meantime allotment holders may have to get their own water supply.

This is a busy time for the grower. We have seeds to sow and plants to put in the ground. In order to do that we need water. While we are waiting for our water tanks to be fitted, we could all do something to help the situation with the lack of water by collecting our rain water.

As I write this it is pouring down with rain outside, but it is very much welcomed in the garden and on the allotment too. We all need to start thinking of water as a luxury and certainly for our plants and gardens we should be trying to collect as much rain water as possible. This can be done with a simple water-harvesting system. Shed roofs are a great way to collect water. Roofing over your compost bins or just having a few buckets will all help. So get collecting your rain water if you can!

Soil improvement

Gardening requires a long-term outlook with respect to soil preparation. In fact, the key to successful gardening is to feed the soil with organic matter, which in turn feeds the plants. Even the worst soils can be improved and made productive with time.

Planning is crucial. 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 you offer the nutrients they need. Feeding the soil will feed the plant and, in the case of fruit and vegetables, the plants will feed us.

However, most of us will start our seeds off indoors and therefore need to buy in compost. **For Peats Sake** is a campaign launched by Garden Organic to make people aware of the effects peat bogs have on our climate. In past newsletters I have expressed the need for us all to try and make our own compost, not only to put less landfill in the ground but also to put less stress on our need for peat. Peat bogs are rare ecosystems – wild areas which are home to a wealth of plants, birds and insects. They also store 3 times more carbon than a forest. Peat-free composts are easily available these days.

Indoor-sowing problems

In order to get ahead you can sow seeds in compost on a windowsill at home. If you're keeping plants or newly germinated seedlings on a windowsill, it's important to remember to turn them as often as possible. A window only lets light in from one angle and your seedlings will stretch toward this light; unturned seedlings or young plants will elongate and become stretched and leggy. It may seem like a lot of faff, but it does make a difference.

In the veg garden

Don't forget to plan a crop rotation for your veg. This helps prevent disease and makes best use of the soil's nutrition. When the soil temperature reaches 5°C and stays like that for a week, I'm happy to drill-sow – but always with the fleece at hand should a cold snap come along.

For pollinating insects we could try and incorporate a small area on the allotment for wildlife. 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, including annuals such as 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. The Butterfly Conservation are on a mission to create 100,000 wild spaces by 2026 to help improve the state of butterflies and moths in the UK and we want allotmenters everywhere to do their bit. You can do this by cultivating your very own Wild Space with edible plants.

Talking of wildlife on the allotment, not all are welcome. If you have walked in the village you know this area is a fantastic location for rabbits. And the best you can do is to fence them out. Many plot holders have started that task on their own plots but hopefully the Council will sort out the main fence very soon.

The allotments are full of activity at the moment and people are working hard to create their own ideas in their own little area. It's a joy to see all the families making use of the land to grow edible crops and maybe the odd flower area. Through nature and gardening, children become curious, imaginative, and creative and we owe it to them to give them the experience if we can. So when we get some negative behaviour from children on the allotments it's really sad. Hopefully when the space starts to develop they too will see what can be achieved and will come to enjoy this positive activity.

We can all look forward to enjoying the fruits of our labour at harvesting time and perhaps sharing ideas of our successes with others. Anything is achievable if you put in a little effort.

Happy Gardening!



The Breeze Newsletter for Upper Rissington was first published in 2014, making it almost 10 years old, and in that time we've only missed one edition (during Covid when reporting community activity was a little tricky). When we set up *The Breeze* the aim was to create a newsletter for the

community, written by the community. This was particularly important then as our village was destined to more than double in size and we wanted new residents to know what was available to them. We hoped that by putting a newsletter through every door in the village we could support participation and development of community groups.

In the time we've been publishing we've self funded through the use of advertising, and used advertising as a means of saving costs for other village groups (by offering advertising as a quid pro quo for services). Any advertising for local charitable groups and organisations is carried free of charge. Editorially we do not intend or promote *The Breeze* as a campaigning publication as we see it as a means of informing the community on upcoming events, reporting on past events, and updating the community on items and people of interest in our village. We obviously need to carry the odd dog poo reprimand but that isn't the intended core of the publication.

We are now at a point where we need to think about the future of *The Breeze*. This is where you may be able to help out. We are the same committee of people that set *The Breeze* up almost 10 years ago and we think we need to change in some way. We need new ideas and new people to help us across the piece by writing articles of interest to the community (whether regular or one-offs); and we need help with distribution to the over 800 houses in Upper Rissington. We welcome ideas, but would value more volunteers to take on committee responsibilities to help with the management of *The Breeze*. Most importantly, we rely massively on the editorial calm, talent and skill of Sue Handy who has edited every edition so far. Sue has wisely identified the risk to the future of *The Breeze* if we don't have succession plans in place and now, before we get to a critical point, is the ideal time to develop that plan. So if you think you might like to be involved in some capacity please email us at URNEWS@btinternet.com or if you just want to chat about potential involvement, seek out David Harrison, Keelin McLeman or myself (Wayne Fisher) and we would be happy to discuss opportunities that might comfortably fit with you. Experience is brilliant and obviously welcome, but a lack of experience is no hindrance if you have a passion for community and a desire to help its' development.

GREAT RISSINGTON GARDENING CLUB



Great Rissington Gardening Club was formed in 2010 by some very keen gardeners who wanted to meet likeminded gardeners. The club has grown from informal chats to guest speakers and garden visits.

The club runs from March to December, meeting every 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Great Rissington Club at 7.30pm, for an 8pm start. New members can join any time or come as a guest.

At our meetings we have a variety of guest speakers covering a wide range of topics, from: vintage tools, plants with medicinal properties, butterflies and bugs, wildlife, organic gardening and famous gardens to name but a few.

Throughout the summer months (June, July & August) when we are all busy in our own gardens and allotments, we arrange garden visits.

If you would like to know more about our club please contact Jackie (Jfpalmer45@btinternet.com), Janet (Janeteturnbull@gmail.com), or Jill. (Jillysoft@hotmail.com).

THE NEW ROTARY YEAR AHEAD

June marks the start of a **new Rotary Year**, don't ask me why it is not in January ... I have no idea! As you well know, "Things" do not just happen. We have been planning for several weeks now what we are going to be do, how we are going to do it and more importantly, who is going to do it. "Things" do not happen without money in the bank, so that is the fourth major consideration. So what are these "Things" ...?

- We will continue our involvement with the Youth of the area by providing tutoring for student mock interviews connected with their BTEC programme and carry out mock BTEC interviews. We will continue to supply refurbished laptops to disadvantaged children when they become available. We will also implement new initiatives such as the Bloodhound Project and arranging visits to Oxford University.
- In the Community we will continue to support our chosen charity. Last year "Headspace" in Bourton received funds to stock their fridge with "goodies" and to run workshops to help children deal with their individual problems. The photo shows a recent visit. We will organise community events such as the Car Treasure Hunt and Drive-By Santa, which have been popular in the past, and through the Community Award Scheme, recognise the "Local Hero". Following the success of the Quiz Night, we will repeat this as a post-Christmas attraction.
- On the international front, and for the third year running, we will collect hand tools for Africa in collaboration with Tools for Self Reliance, a Welsh Charity.



How do we pay for these "Things"? Simply put, we provide and serve tea and cake at Chastleton House in the summer months and our inhouse knitting expert makes and sells "Wellington Wobblers". Don't let Catherine see you not wearing one!

Lastly, who does all these "Things"? A dedicated gang who meet in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the 2nd. and 4th. Thursday of each month. Roll your sleeves up, come and have a drink; you are very welcome.



Little Hurricanes

Baby & Toddler Group for the under 5's and
their parents/grandparents/carers

Every Thursday during term time 9.30am to 11.30am
© Village Hall, Wellington Road, Upper Rissington GL54 2QW
£2 donation per family littlehurricanes@hotmail.com

Since I last wrote for *The Breeze*, Little Hurricanes has had lots of new and exciting changes. In September, the Hurricanes' families pulled together and organized a Macmillan cake sale where we raised £136.80 for this amazing charity. In October, we arranged for Cotswold First Aid to deliver a basic

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

Cotswold
First Aid



pediatric first aid course which was attended by our families and the wider community. October also saw the first of many sensory and messy play activities run by Jo from Aspire Foundation. Jo came along with lots of fun activities to encourage the children's social skills and language development. Sadly, this project came to an end in April. I'd like to thank Jo for supporting our group and doing it with a smile.

As is custom in the Autumn term, Little Hurricanes threw a spooky Halloween party that was well attended. In November we welcomed Alastair Currill for a Christmas photoshoot and The Pottery Place, Witney offered pottery painting to give as beautiful Christmas gifts and keepsakes. Our Christmas Party was a huge success as more than 30 families joined in the festivities with a Christmas buffet and crafts. The little ones were excited to receive an early Christmas present from Santa's Elves.

The start of 2023 saw the long-awaited return of the NHS baby hub! We are pleased to be hosting the NHS every third Thursday of the month. Families can have their baby weighed, get advice, and discuss any concerns they have with trained health professionals. Please note that if you'd like to access the Baby Hub there is no



obligation to attend Hurricanes. It's a free to access service available to everyone! Since January, in addition to our usual free play activities, singing and crafts, we introduced a water play area, which has proved hugely popular with both babies and pre-schoolers as they splash around in the tuff trays and enjoy the bubbles!

Our last session before we break for summer will be Thursday 13th July. This will be a special Summer party to mark the end of another busy year. The party will also see the official handover of the running of the group as

I step back from Little Hurricanes after 5 years helping out in various capacities. I'll be leaving the group in the capable hands of a small group of mums, nans, and a dad who I know will do an brilliant job at keeping it going and taking it from strength to strength. They will be supported by the fabulous Ann and Margaret who tirelessly and selflessly volunteer each week, helping to set up, wash up, tidy and clean. These 2 ladies are incredible and without them I would not have been able to run Hurricanes. Thank you both for everything you've done for our little group, and the moral support you've given me! I'd also like thank everyone who has been a part of Little Hurricanes since I started attending back in 2017! Little Hurricanes has played a huge part in my life. During my time at the group, I've made lots of wonderful memories and me and both of my daughters have made lifelong friends – thank you everyone who has been a part of it!

If you'd like to get involved with Little Hurricanes or want to know more about it, don't hesitate to get in touch either on Facebook or by sending an email to littlehurricanes@hotmail.com.

Lizzie

FEELING LUCKY?

You could win up to £25,000 with The Rissington School's exciting new weekly lottery

The Rissington School has launched a brand new weekly lottery through the Your School Lottery scheme, which raises much-needed funds for schools across the UK.

Tickets for the lottery cost just £1 each per week, with a top prize of £25,000!

The first draw will take place on Saturday 24th June, but you can buy tickets now.



How it works

For every ticket purchased, there are two chances to win a cash prize. Each ticket consists of six numbers between 0 and 9. Match all six to the six-digit winning combination picked for that week and you will win the £25,000 JACKPOT!

There is a guaranteed cash prize every week, too, as the same tickets are also drawn on a raffle basis. This means one lucky player will win 30% of all ticket sales for that week's draw. The more players there are, the bigger the weekly cash prize.

The draw will take place every Saturday at 8pm, and the results will be posted online. Winners will be notified by email and the winnings posted into their nominated bank account. The administration for the draw is all handled safely and securely by Your School Lottery.

How to buy tickets

To buy tickets for The Rissington School Lottery, please visit www.yourschoollottery.co.uk and search for 'Rissington'. Players must be aged 16 or over. You can either set up a monthly recurring payment plan via Direct Debit or payment card, or pay for a block of 1, 3, 6 or 12 months of weekly tickets on a non-recurring basis. There is no commitment to stay in the lottery, and you can choose to leave at any time.

Make a difference

Set up by Friends of The Rissington School (FORS), The Rissington School Lottery is a fantastic way to bring together parents, carers, teachers, support staff and the wider community to have a bit of fun and make a real difference.

All proceeds from the lottery – 40% of ticket sales – will go towards benefiting the education, enjoyment and wellbeing of pupils at The Rissington School, and strengthening the fantastic school community across both the Upper Rissington and Great Rissington sites.

If you have any questions, please email friendsoftherissingtonschool@gmail.com Thank you for your support!

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES FOR OLDER AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN THE NORTH COTSWOLDS



Community activities provided by charity, Cotswold Friends, are supporting older and vulnerable people to live a life less lonely in the North Cotswolds – with new activities, including Friendship Cafés and a new Community Garden, launching this year.

Almost 400 clients of the charity already attend over 20 different activities, providing them with a chance to meet new people and have a chat, take part in crafts and projects, or just have a friendly cuppa and a bite to eat.

They include the charity's Men in Sheds and She Sheds projects in Chipping Campden, Moreton, Bourton and Northleach, where members are often found busily making planters, bird boxes, hedgehog houses, kindling and more. The 'shedders' always welcome new recruits to come along and share ideas and skills, or simply enjoy the friendly atmosphere.

Cotswold Friends also runs 10 different Lunch Clubs in locations around the North Cotswolds, giving those who may be older, lonely, or isolated the opportunity to get together with others for a hot meal and the chance to socialise. The charity's Kineton Pub Lunch Club has recently re-started and takes place at The Halfway, Kineton near Guiting Power, on the second Tuesday each month.

Cotswold Friends' Walking Football activity has been running since 2017 and is fun for everybody, currently taking place every Friday from 9.30am to 11am at Blockley Sports Field. It's for men and women of all ages, providing fitness and new friends, and you don't need any previous experience.

Meanwhile a new Friendship Café in Stow-on-the-Wold, launched by the charity in March, aims to combat loneliness and isolation over a cuppa. The Stow Friendship Café takes place between 10.30am and 12pm on the first and third Tuesday each month at Brio Beechwood Park. A Friendship Café in Moreton will also be up and running with the charity soon.

Also new for 2023, a Community Garden is being developed behind Stow Surgery for surgery patients and local older residents to use. Cotswold Friends are currently looking for volunteers to help create the Community Garden, which will include raised beds of flowers, herbs and vegetables, accessible paths, seating and a sheltered area.

For more information on Cotswold Friends' Community Activities Programme, telephone 01608 692811, email activities@cotswoldfriends.org or visit www.cotswoldfriends.org.



What is The Church in Upper Rissington?

I wonder how many of you have asked yourselves that question when you spot posters up or see the name pop up on Facebook? After all, we don't have a church building and so we don't have anywhere to be particularly visible – but we do exist and we long to serve the community we care for very much.

The Church in Upper Rissington has developed out of CUR:ve – and CUR:ve actually stands for “The Church in Upper Rissington: Valuing Everyone” – our ethos has not changed; it is simply an easier name to understand. I like to think of us as a church without walls and without boundaries, praying for everyone and open to everyone and very welcoming. Whatever stage of your life journey you are at, however many questions you might have – we would love to meet you.

We love it when people come and ask us questions, but what we would really like to ask you is – what would *you* most like us to offer in the village? And we know that that is a very big question and could have many answers, so perhaps it would be easier to come and have a chat, so do drop by our stand at the Village Fete on 1st July where we will have activities for all ages. Also please don't hesitate to contact me on 01451 810309 or email me at revd.nina@gmail.co.uk or even call by The Vicarage at 6 De Havilland Road.

Bless you
Revd Nina

BOURTON VALE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Your Friendly Gardening Club

CALLING ALL GARDENERS

Do you have a garden, large or small, a courtyard or just a large flowerpot?

Or is your patch fresh from the builders?

Are you experienced or new to gardening?

ALL ARE WELCOME TO OUR GARDEN CLUB

Our aim is to promote gardening at all levels,
to help, encourage, learn and enjoy ourselves while doing so.
We meet on the second Wednesday of each month
at the Baptist Church Hall in Bourton-on-the-Water
at 7.30 pm.



Show Schedules for our 2023 Annual Garden Show on Saturday 9th September at the British Legion Hall in Bourton-on-the-Water are now available from the Visitor Information Centre or Hartwells!

Annual membership is just £15 (or £3 a visit) and if you would like to a copy of our full programme of speakers and events for this year,
please contact Secretary Sandra Mitchell on 07840 898472 or email sandra@rissington.uk
or check the website www.gfgs.org.uk/members/bourton

The Rissingtons Local History Society

We had an excellent turnout for the **March** talk on **The Australian Flying Corps in the Cotswolds in WW1** by Bill King, who is a walking encyclopaedia on wars!

The visit in **April** was a **Science walk round Oxford**, very well attended and with an excellent guide – Elizabeth Hudson-Evans. We enjoyed lunch at the Ashmolean afterwards.

Our **May** talk on **The History of Compton Verney** should be interesting.

Forthcoming events

Friday 9th June@2pm.

We are visiting **Rodmarton Manor** for a private tour followed by tea.

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO MEMBERS ONLY.

Details will have been sent out to members.

Have a good summer and hope to see many of you in the autumn for our new programme. The first date is **Friday 22nd September –Members visit to Sudeley Castle**, followed by the first talk in the new programme on **Friday 13th October** entitled **Most Secret – Defford Airfield – airborne radar in WW2 and the cold war.**

Subscriptions: due in July annually – £15pp.

Visitors welcome £3.50, to include refreshments. For enquiries, contact information.RLHS@gmail.com or Kate O'Brien 07815 606770.

PIONEERS

Pioneers meet in the Village Hall on alternate Wednesdays, 11.00am–1.00pm. We have coffee, tea, cake & chats. There is also a book swap table.

If you are new to the village (or have been here for a long time) and would like to meet others, then do come along. We ask for a £2 donation to cover our costs, although your first visit is always free. We look forward to meeting you.

Dates of our next meetings: June 7th, 21st; July 5th, 19th; Aug 2nd, 16th & 30th

We are also planning 2 outings which you are welcome to join us for. They are:

1. Outing to **Buscot NT** at 2:00pm on **9th June** and those wishing to have lunch first at The Riverside Pub, Lechlade from 12:00 noon
2. Outing to **Lavender Fields, Snowhill**, leaving UR Village Hall at 10:00am (for those wishing to have a lift) on **12th July** with lunch after at The Plough, Ford at 1:00pm

For more information, about our meetings or outings, email: urpioneers@gmail.com



Bourton Men in Sheds



& She Sheds

COME AND JOIN US!

Help your community with practical projects



Want to get involved with community DIY projects in a friendly environment?

Want to learn some new skills?

Or just have a cuppa and a natter?

Come and join us as a 'Shedder' and get involved in some projects!

Our volunteers are here to support you.

You don't need to have any DIY experience and ALL are welcome (not just men!)

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

9.30am - 12.30pm

Join us at:

The Royal British Legion

Bourton-on-the-Water

Find out more:

Tel: 01608 698557

sheds@cotswoldfriends.org



Cotswold Friends, High Street, Moreton-in-Marsh,
GL56 0AZ

Registered Charity No: 1106748, Company Limited
by Guarantee No: 5182191, Registered in England
and Wales, March 2023

Local Walks – Merrymouth circular

Distance: 4.3 miles

Estimated Time: 1hr 50mins

Terrain: moderate

Summary:

A circular walk on farm tracks and arable fields. There are now no stiles on this walk, just kissing-gates or gates. There can be livestock, sheep or cows and game birds all year, so the landowner asks dog walkers to keep dogs on a lead at all times. You will need to cross the busy A424 twice but you are rewarded with some good views and lots of wildlife.

Parking: In the lay-by (north bound side) on the A424, just south of the Merrymouth Inn.



The Route

Be careful once parked, as the A424 is a busy round, so keep any children or dogs safe.

- 1) From the lay-by, cross the A424 to the other side, as there is a very wide verge, and then walk towards the Merrymouth, heading for a gated gap in the hedge on your right, before you reach the Inn.
- 2) Go through the gate, heading towards Fifield. There is a slight incline and once at the top, you'll have a good view east over the Wychwoods.



- 3) Continue on this track until you nearly reach the road, keep an eye out for a kissing-gate in a gap in the hedge on your left. When you get to this kissing-gate, this marks where the path starts going diagonally across the field on your right which you've been walking by. You'll see a single power pole in the field, the path passes right by this pole and onto the corner of the field where there is a gap in the hedge.

- 4) Go through the gap in the hedge and you'll see you are near the corner of this next field. Turn left, follow the edge of this field heading for a gap in the hedge a short distance away. Go through the gate here into the next field.
- 5) Before you start across this next field, the path sometimes isn't obvious so you need to check your heading. Look for a line of trees diagonally across the field on the horizon, these are next to the A424. At the right-hand end of these trees there is a gap and then one more tree, head for this gap across the field. You get more good views looking east over the Wychwoods while you cross this field.



- 6) Before you go through the gate to leave the field, you are about to cross the A424 (for the last time), so make sure all are safe. Go straight across the A424 and through the hedge gap opposite. Then turn slight left to head diagonally across this next field heading for another gap in another hedge.
- 7) Through this gap and keeping a similar

direction, diagonally across this next field. You'll see on the other side of the field a cottage (Tangley Farm Cottages); head to the right of this cottage, to a kissing-gate in the hedge line.

- 8) Go through the kissing-gate and on a similar line across this next field, going round to the right missing a bit of rough ground. You are heading for another cottage but this time the left end of this cottage, where there is a kissing-gate.
- 9) Through the kissing-gate and turn right, to pass through Tangley Farm and past Tangley Hall on your left. Go past the last building on the right, then follow the track right. You'll pass the private entrance to Tangley Hall.
- 10) You will now be heading downhill with Long Copse on your left and the sound of Coombe Brook down in the copse. You cross over

Coombe Brook as the track turns left and then starts up hill, going past Tangley Woods on your right.

- 11) You get a nice view looking back the way you came, as you continue up hill. As it flattens out, you'll come to a gate on your right with waymarks. Go through the gate and then follow the track that goes downhill (left) when it splits. Depending on time of year and rainfall, the hill opposite you has a few springs on it, which feed Hazelford Brook.
- 12) Continue downhill and cross the bridge over the spring stream and then uphill to a gate. Pass through the gate and continue uphill.
- 13) As it flattens out, the track turns right (waymarked) just past a hedge on the right and the view over the airfield opens out, the two old hangers standing out on the horizon on the left. As you continue along this track with the hedge on your right, the single



newer hanger can be seen in front of you. You will pass quite close to this hanger.



- 14) The track continues in the same direction but with a little left, then right as you drop into a dip and then back uphill, still heading for the newer hanger.
- 15) As you reach the newer hanger, you are at the closest point to the airfield, with an access gate for authorised vehicles there. Here you can see the two old hangers to the south and, looking west, a mast on the airfield which is part of the Met Office weather reporting stations - Little Rissington (ESAWS).
- 16) As the airfield is still RAF active, you may see some aircraft or parachuting over or on the airfield.
- 17) The track now turns right (east) along the hedge line and past the newer hanger. Looking through the hedge and gaps after the hanger, you see the watch tower and houses of Upper Rissington, as well as the buildings of the Volunteer Gliding Squadron, 637 and 621 VGS's. You are also close to the Rissington Kart Track and you can see its control building.
- 18) Continue along the track, heading towards some trees, where the track goes left a little and drops into a dip. At the lowest point of the dip, there are some waymarks for either straight on (direct route to Merrymouth Inn) or turn right. Turn right to pass below the Warren Farm buildings on top of the hill, as the path follows the 'valley'.
- 19) As you approach some trees, the path bears left a little and starts uphill to pass the back of a modern barn near the top of the slope. Continue along this path to the edge of a field and the end of the trees on your right.

- 20) Before you cross the field, you need to check your heading, as the path sometimes is not obvious. Look across the field (ignore trees in a dip closer to you) to a line of trees that run along the side of the A424; this is the same line of trees used before in this route! This time you can't see a gap but head for



the last tree on the left in the line.

- 21) As you walk over the field, your view ahead opens and you can now see the corner of a hedge with a waymark post there. This is what you need to head for. As you cross the field, you'll see to the north (left) Workham Farm buildings.
- 22) Now at the waymark post, follow the track downhill, with the hedge on your left.
- 23) On reaching a gate, go through the gate and continue downhill but this section becomes quite steep as it drops down to the Coombe Brook. You'll see a gate with a small bridge beyond to cross over the brook.
- 24) Once over Coombe Brook, it's now uphill with a wood to your left and new fenced planting to your right. After the wood finishes on your left, a hedge you are approaching, keep to the right of it, as you get to it. The track continues uphill all the way to a gap in the hedge by the lay-by, where you started from.

That's it, I hope you enjoyed the route.

(The route can be changed at point 18, direct to Merrymouth. Go straight on, a short uphill, then much longer downhill, through a gate, to cross the Coombe Brook and back up again. This alternative comes out at the back of the Merrymouth onto a side road to Workham Farm and is 4.2 miles long, so a similar distance.)



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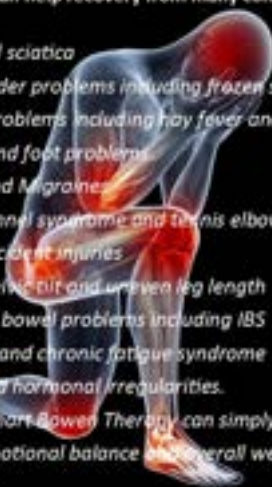
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This is a list of people and organisations in Upper Rissington who provide goods or services in the village. Inclusion in this list is not a recommendation. If you would like your business included the cost will be £5 towards the printing costs of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

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

Name	Service	Web/email	Phone
Police	Non-Emergency Number		101
Albion Water	Water Service Emergency		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	
Village Hall		Parish Clerk (as above) or PC website www.upperrissington-pc.gov.uk/village-hall	Parish Clerk (as above)
The Breeze	Newsletter	URNEWS@btinternet.com	
Pioneers		urpioneers@gmail.com	
Revd Nina Summerfield	Church in Upper Rissington	revd.nina@gmail.com	01451 810309
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 in September 2023. 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 18th August 2023

For advertising enquiries you can also email
Keelin McLeman

(keelinbracken@gmail.com)



(Wildflowers, courtesy David Harrison)