

Ugborough Parish Newsletter

May 2020



Support Ugborough: -Sue Johns

It's hard to believe that on March 17th a few like-minded people gathered (yes gathered..) adhering to the 2m rule, in a sitting room to discuss launching a Support Group to cover Ugborough and the immediate outlying area throughout the imminent Lockdown. Within 24 hours we had professionally printed a Flier— thanks to Juliet, (seems an aeon ago), and had a first Response Team of 9 Volunteers signed up - each delegated to an area of the Village.

The Volunteer WhatsApp Group quickly grew to the current 41, so we are privileged to be able to call on many as backup - to share shopping, medication collection and caring. We have extended our range to cover the areas in the Parish not covered by the Bittaford and Moorhaven Teams – to include places I barely knew existed from the wilds of Filham to the Northern territories around Cheston, from Marridge to Zeaston.

We are settling into some sort of routine now, with Volunteers becoming quite close (well, figuratively speaking!) to their VPs (Vulnerable People) and the Self Isolating.

Shelley has become Grocer Hutcheon – with initially specific weekly orders to those VPs and Self-isolating, delivered by the delegated Volunteers – to a service which has developed into a full village 'order and collect' on a Saturday Morning in the Square – turning over £400 a week!

This has been particularly useful as supermarkets have restricted delivery slots – and we can rest assured all the veg is locally sourced.

We have produced a Suppliers List of which a regularly updated version is available on Ugborough.com – and most of these suppliers are local; from our regular USS contributors, local fish and meat sellers to Wholesalers with Parish connections.

Cash and Carry quantities have been interesting – and I have a great picture of my daughter in law thinking all her Christmases had come at once when she received 5kg of cheese!

And so many offshoot bonuses of these strange times:

A Team of Sour Dough Bakers guided by Baker Collis of USS fame has been producing the most amazing loaves grafted from Sour Dough (who'd have thought?) – and images of

mouth-watering morsels from a plain old loaf perfectly baked, to wild garlic and cheddar sourdough scones with pickled garlic buds appear on the Group. Some 19 on that WhatsApp and the traffic is extremely heavy.

(This another term I've learnt in my jettison into an IT world full of Zoom and Houseparties!)

Talking of which – Andy Hughes is launching his first local Zoom Quiz on Saturday... Quizzes have become an art form of late – and I'm sure this will be hugely popular event taken with the obligatory glass of wine.

AND Sharon Hughes is even considering a ZoomBINGO!

An incredible phenomenon was launched when one of our local GPs in desperation wondered whether the community might be able to knock up a few scrubs from old sheets, duvet covers etc. that we might have lurking in the back of our airing cupboards (bet that old cupboard's not a Green option David R?!).

Within a few days of frenetic activity with yet another WhatsApp behaving like the M25, we'd perfected an easy pattern, created a Team of Cutters, Seamstresses and Errand Runners who managed to produce 24 initial orders for Ashburton, South Brent and Ivybridge GP Surgeries. Amazing!

It is our intention to just patronise users with local connections – and not go viral ... as we feel there are now larger companies better placed to do this – and anyway everyone is developing blisters and poor eyesight! Thanks particularly to Charlott Fletcher for utilising her undoubted skill set and keeping everyone on track.

Thanks too to the Village Hall Committee for coming up trumps hosting the Post Office when the church became unavailable. And thanks to Charlotte Walliker for organising and 'manning' in her truly efficient style – with a smile.

The Village Treats for those deserving, who are vulnerable, elderly, self-isolating and recently front-line NHS Workers have been the brainchild of Sarah Scanlon and Katie Lloyd - and hugely appreciated.

Katie then had another Vision For all the Tubs in the Village this year to be adorned in NHS blue.... So ---- yet another WhatsApp Group – to include Jane Johns and Meryl Docker to mastermind this one...

Katie having spoken to the CEO of Endsleigh in Guernsey (as you do....!) has succeeded in obtaining some bargain bedding – but if there is a shortfall there will be a lot of home sown nigella and forget-me-nots to top us up (WHEN the mail order catches up!)

It would be great to have the entire village and local hamlets bedecked in a colour that has become synonymous with the front-line war on COVID-19. Katie was dreaming too to have the trees in the Square sporting coloured blue twinkly lights and the church spotlighted in glorious blue too – but as times 'is extremely hard' at this moment at dear Old St Peter's, I'm not sure the Treasurer (*for info this is Sue Johns!*) will agree to even confer with the PCC!

We came also to consider whether there are any local children who might benefit from a laptop to aid their home schooling ... particularly when parents are working from home and also requiring PCs etc....

We have a volunteer who is happy to try and renovate old lap tops into something useful for such children. So if anyone has anything they think might be suitable – please let me know.. This has a better chance of success if the laptop came originally with Windows 7 and powers up successfully.

A plant swap? We all seem to be gardening like never before (I understand Suttons are receiving 1000 orders a day instead of 100) – and we are frankly never going to eat the 72 cabbages that I'm about to pot on. So do keep pricking out – and the Swap will very likely take place in the Square on a Saturday at the same time as the Veg distribution.

Watch out for Bugle info on this one.

Libby has some excellent Creative Ideas outlined in this Newsletter – which will potentially produce something historic to remember these unprecedented times....

One more initiative that we feel might just catch on, (thanks Phil), – is the sharing from your doorstep a glass of wine/beer/tea on a Friday night at 6. It has become quite an exciting event to catch sight of a neighbour in the distance – this could catch on as the ultimate social event of the week..... how times have changed!

A serious note.....

I must add here that all our activities have been carried out with social distancing and cross contamination measures at the fore....

Journeys have been streamlined – and every precaution taken to minimise the risk to as low as reasonably practical. We've publicised safe practice and send frequent reminders to all our volunteers to do just that. Juliet has been keeping us updated with the latest Government Guidelines and GDPR, the Parish Council with relevant community advice, Sharon Hughes is our Safeguarding advisor and we're grateful to Richard Hosking (DCC) for his personal interest and help with all our projects.

If anyone does not have someone to call on for help – please contact me:

Sue Johns suejohsdunwellfarm@gmail.com 07889 737967

or Katie Lloyd katiejsmart@googlemail.com 07919 028839

I find it a very humbling experience to be involved with such an amazing Team – for whom nothing is too much trouble, who are all happy to go above and beyond to help neighbours and the community at this time of crisis.

However, my 91 year mother who is currently residing with us – says we don't know we're born yet – and tells me it's not a bit like the war where we had to put banana food flavouring on parsnips to simulate bananas!!

Stay Safe

The Post Office will now open in the Village Hall with strict anti-contamination measures on Thursdays from 10 a.m.-12 noon) pending further government directives. Other than for this Emergency Post office the Village Hall is closed. The church is closed now and for the immediate future. Rev David Sayle is happy to receive communications: 01548 821199. parish_sayle@me.com

GARDENING FOR THE NHS - *Jane Johns*

Thank you to everyone who has promised help for planting up the tubs in the Square, and for agreeing to look after them (watering!)

We have seven volunteers and there are seven tubs! Also, several people have offered to have blue-planted pots outside their houses, and two have said they already have hanging baskets they can plant. Is there anyone else who would like/has a suitable spot for a hanging basket? If not, we will stick to pots and tubs.

We are still awaiting confirmation of a supply of plants in the right colours, and as these (we hope!) might be donated, it makes it difficult to keep asking/reminding!

Watch this space for further news and look out for Bugle messages too.

Hopefully we will soon have a tidal wave of blue flowers in the Village.

Any comments or questions please contact me on info@hillhead-farm.co.uk or 07780 707180

Update to VE Day meal planned for Friday 8th May - *Taff Jones*

This has now been postponed to 15th August (VJ Day)

There are still a couple of places available so please contact Taff if you would like to attend this formal Black-Tie Dinner at The Anchor.

Tickets for the dinner are £35 a head and this will include a three-course meal, cheese board, wine on the table, a glass of port and an after-dinner speaker.

Contact Taff (e-mail: taff.ugborough@mail.com) to book your place.

Ivybridge U3A – *Ann Oakins*

Our monthly meetings have been postponed for the foreseeable future.

A decision will be made in May/June as to how to proceed and will depend on Government advice at the time.

All groups have now stopped and will resume only when Government advice allows.

We wish all our members and their families good health and that before too long we may recommence our activities once again.

Please see our website for up to date information. www.ivybridge-u3a.org.uk

Community Crafting

I hope you are all well and keeping safe at this crazy and difficult time. We have been thinking about ways to keep busy and creative while we're all under lockdown and self-isolating, and have come up with a few ideas:

Community Quilt

Charlott and I were wondering whether some members of our wonderful community would like to join us in making an Ugborough Community Quilt? We thought that creating a quilt together could help lift our spirits and serve as a reminder of a time when we all pulled together and looked after each other.

Charlott has the fabric and will cut into squares (20cm plus seam allowances) with instructions attached and these and some extra bits of fabric and ribbon etc will be in plastic wallets for you to create at your leisure. Once it is safe to do so and all entries have been collected in, Charlott, Val, and myself will sew all the pieces together.

Ideas wise - anything goes! Embroidery, applique, patchwork, painting, collage, batik, kids' entries - this is a community project and all contributions are welcome and as important as each other. If you'd like a plastic wallet delivered to you, please text Libby on 07930491759.

Please can all finished quilting squares be kept at home until further notice so as to reduce cross - infection risks? Please include your details too so we can create a key for the quilt to indicate who has made which square. You might even like to put your name or initials on the square too.

Friendship Bracelets

The girls and I have been packaging up little bags with a link to a friendship making tutorial online and some embroidery thread for kids (and big kids) to make at home. If you'd like some craft packs delivered to you then please text Libby.

Knitting

If any knitters out there wanted to dust off their needles and get creative, I can deliver some wool too! If anyone wanted to create baby items for the NICU at Derriford I can pass on the details of where to send them – at time of writing I'm waiting on info as to whether they have certain items they'd like us to knit for them.

Similarly check out this awesome idea for knitting bunting for the Devon County Show: <https://www.devoncountyshow.co.uk/bunting>

Shelley's Jumper!

If anyone fancies a big knitting project, then Shelley has a jumper pattern plus all the wool needed to complete the project – she'd be really grateful if someone wanted to take on the challenge!!

Many thanks lovely Ugborough-and-surrounding-area-people!

Please ensure strict sterilising procedure in handling goods and social distancing measures are adhered to at all times.

Any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me on 07930491759,
Libby Johns and Charlott Fletcher x

St Peter's Church Coffee Drop-In Centre

We are very sorry that due to the Corona Virus situation, the church is closed and there will be no coffee mornings at present.

Do look after your neighbours (especially the elderly and those without transport) during this period.

We are unable to host the Post Office but are so pleased that the Village Hall is able to do so for the time being- see announcement on page 4

Ugborough Local History Group- Merryl Docker

I'm sure it will come as no surprise to you that we will postpone our AGM planned for Wednesday 27th May. We have lost 4 of our monthly meetings so I think it is best to make a clean break and reopen on Wednesday 24th September with our AGM to start again afresh. All being well the pandemic will be behind us and our lives will be reviewed in the light of these extraordinary experiences. We will look into our finances by then to decide how we can carry your membership forward.

In the meantime, be kind to yourselves and each other and keep in touch. Stay safe.

The Beacon Federation - Executive Headteacher - Mrs. Karen Dixon

Ugborough Primary School.

Our schools are currently closed until further notice. Weekly parent updates and home learning resources are published each Friday under the 'school closure' tab of the Beacon Federation website. Details of how children are able to communicate with their teacher are shown and also a weekly challenge from Mrs. Dixon. There is also a suggested timetable.

Ugborough and Bittaford Pre School (inc breakfast club and after school club)- Tor Lywood

Charity No: 1043499

Open 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday – Friday during term time

Baby and toddler group (drop in) Monday 1.30 – 3 p.m.

Contact: admin@ugboroughandbittafordpre-school.org.uk

Above are the normal opening times of pre-school, however, due to the unprecedented times we are currently living through pre-school, breakfast club and after school club will be closed until further notice in line with Government guidelines.

This does not mean that work behind the scenes has stopped. Far from it, all staff are working away to ensure that pre-school is better than ever for when your children return, doing online training, catching up on admin and preparing resources. They are very much looking forward to a time when they can welcome the children back.

There is a sing-along on every Monday at 11.30 a.m. via Zoom. (just download the app from your app store.) This will give some of the pre-school children a chance to connect and see each other for a few songs and have a catch up. To join simply email ugboroughsongtime@gmail.com, you can then receive your invitation.

Due to a large group going to school in September, we have some availability coming up, so if you know of any younger children who would like to experience our caring, exciting and flexible pre-school please pass on our details or contact pre-school on 07763 215455.

Please do leave a message and someone will contact you.

I am sure that all staff and committee members would join me in wishing everyone well during this time, stay safe and enjoy the sunny weather.

Lost in translation part 1. Dwarf stew - Ian McClure

I have spent much of my life as a (mostly military) Interpreter, in various languages and in various parts of the world. I still give talks about my life as an Interpreter and the associated pitfalls.

The main thing about interpreting is that it is different from translating. When translating you have access to dictionaries and other reference books but when you are interpreting you are on your own! You really do have to think on your feet, as you cannot reach for your dictionary or say to an Ambassador or an Admiral ‘Excuse me Sir, but I don’t understand...’

A chap I worked with in Bosnia was an excellent translator, producing beautifully polished written material, but when he had to interpret ‘in the field’, by his own admission he just could not cope. Of course, the more experienced an Interpreter is, he (or she) can say ‘Excuse me Admiral...’ but if you are junior or new at the game it’s a bit tricky! Which happened to colleague of mine, whom I shall call K to spare her blushes....

The occasion was the first visit of a British warship to the port of what was then still called Leningrad. It was quite a 'VIP' affair, with a British Admiral and a Soviet Admiral present. The British party was being shown round Catherine the Great's palace, and the Russian Admiral said:

'Here, on that island in the middle of the lake, the Empress kept a colony of rabbits, and when she was giving a state banquet a couple of her serfs would row across to the island, knock a few rabbits on the head and bring them back for the pot. And after time rabbit stew became a great delicacy throughout the Empire'.

All well and good – so far. But K did not recognise the Russian word for 'rabbit' – not surprising really as she was a student on a military interpreting course. Though her vocabulary was limited she was nothing if not resourceful, and she remembered that there was a similar Russian word meaning 'dwarf'. Being too junior and intimidated to ask she ploughed on gamely:

'The Empress kept a colony of Dwarfs on the island, and whenever there was a state banquet..... dwarf stew became a great delicacy.....'

K told me later that she knew that they couldn't really have been dwarfs but she had by that time dug a very deep hole out of which she could not climb!

It was at this point that the British Admiral leant across to K and whispered: 'I know they were primitive in the Eighteenth Century but not that primitive.'

So the moral is, either carry a pocket dictionary or say, 'Excuse me Admiral....'

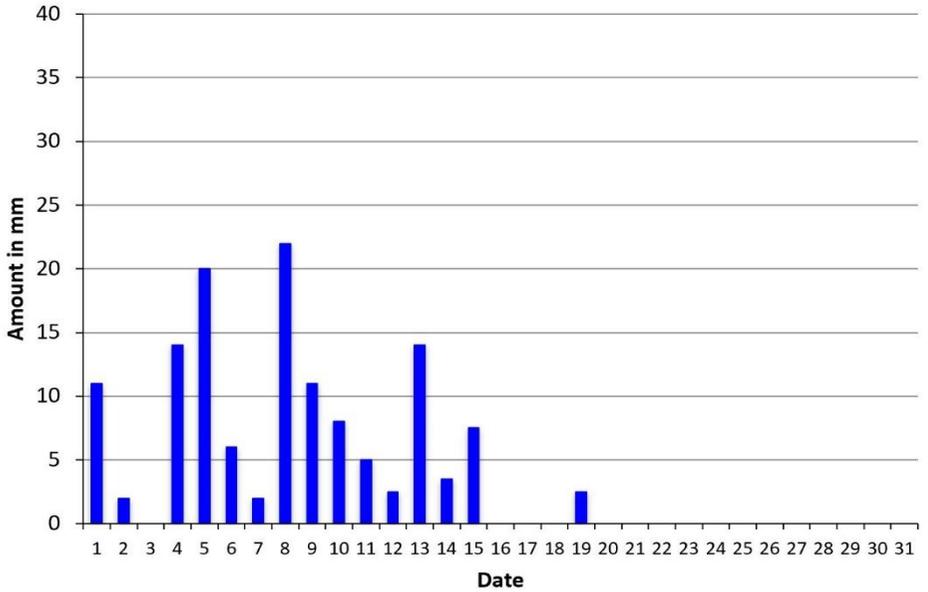
By the way, for those interested in the Russian language the word for rabbit is KROLIK and the word for dwarf is KARLIK.

Rainfall at Shellwood Hill *George Arnison*

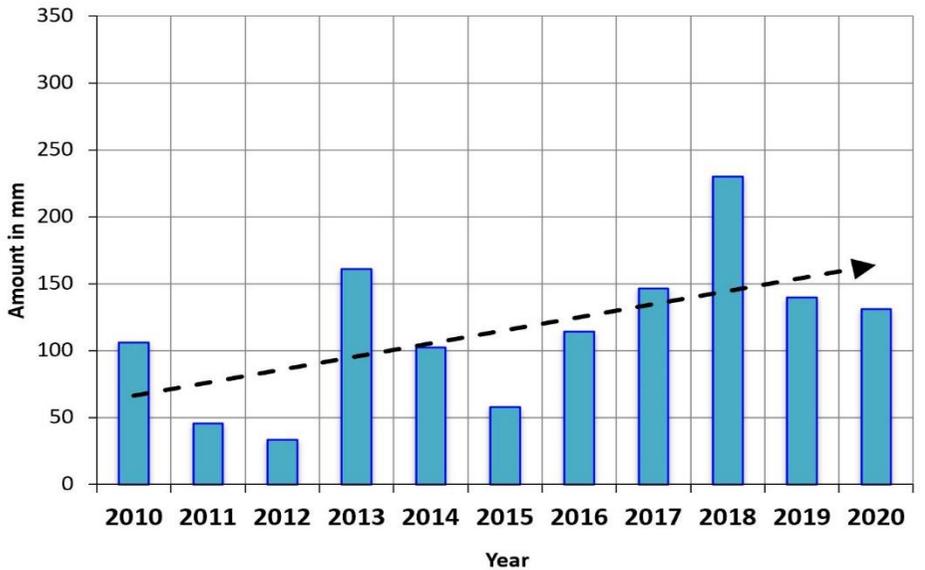
I am beginning to wonder whether we are becoming one of those countries that basically has just two seasons...a 'rainy season' and a 'dry season' (or in our case, probably just a 'not-so-rainy season'). In which case – and with the benefit of some hindsight - I'm marking the 16th of March down as the 'day it stopped raining' – almost exactly six months after it started (22nd September 2019). During that six-month period, it felt like it rained almost continuously. It didn't of course, but I did record rainfall on 133 days out of 176 - which is over 75%, so even when it wasn't raining it still felt wet. The total rainfall during this six-month period was an incredible 1.47m which is more than we get in an average 12 months.

The first half of March was wet (raining every day but one) whilst the second half was dry, (no rainfall at all except on one day). Overall, I recorded 131mm for the month (just over 5") which is a bit over the monthly average of 115mm. I am definitely ready for a bit of 'dry season'.

Rainfall in March 2020



March rainfalls and Trend





G-UP - Creating a community where it's easy to live sustainably - *Caroline Martin*

After 4 weeks of lockdown, the G-UP members decided to meet up virtually to connect and reflect on our experiences. Are there any changes that we have made to cope with this unprecedented situation, that would make a difference to our environment and community, if we stuck to them when we've beaten Covid-19?

Some are obvious, such as less travel resulting in lower emissions. But less obvious is how much more people are exploring and appreciating their local environment by foot and by bike. I've lived here for 6 years and only discovered yesterday that there is a beautiful bluebell wood within walking distance of my house. Many of us are enjoying hearing birdsong rather than traffic noise. But can we keep this reduction in driving once the lockdown eases? Can we still work from home? Will we still consider every trip and how essential it really is?

Food was another issue raised. The lock down has made us all very conscious of not wasting the food that we buy, but we are also coordinating more with neighbours and using local suppliers who deliver to us. With the coincidence with Spring, many of us have been more inspired than ever to grow our own. Buying local has come to the forefront as well, showing the amazing network that we have in the Parish of local producers and suppliers. All these changes are reducing our food's carbon footprint.

Finally, the issue of make do and mend was raised. Replacing broken things with new has become the norm for many, but is less easy in a lockdown. It was suggested, and the idea was met enthusiastically within the group, that once the lockdown was eased it would be great to try and host a repair cafe in the village. These are free events and are all about repairing things (together). Tools, materials and expert volunteers are on hand to help you make any repairs you need. So, when we are allowed out again, don't throw away all those things that have broken whilst in lock down. You might just be able to give it a new lease of life, and save one more non-essential journey. Also, if you have any repair skills that you would be willing to share as an expert volunteer then please get in touch.

Although right now we need to do whatever we need to do in order to keep calm, look after the vulnerable and support those working in key jobs to keep us safe, we are hopeful that this is also an opportunity to embrace living a slower lifestyle that is kinder to people and the planet.

In other news we have suspended our recycling initiatives for the time being: We shall let you know once these resume.

To get involved in G-UP email greenerugp@gmail.com

You can find further information in any of the following places:

The Ugborough website: <https://www.ugborough.com/sustainability-group>

Our facebook page: Greener Ugborough Parish

Your Stars Tonight.

I suspect that I am having a typical day for those of us who are lucky to be locked down, rather than battling in the front line. When I awoke this morning, I had my usual internal debate on whether it was to be a project day - clearing out the attic perhaps. Or did I deserve a holiday treat and allow myself to stay in bed safe beneath the duvet. A typical compromise followed – I stayed in bed but spent the time planning the projects I could do if I wasn't in bed. Eventually, and inevitably, I felt guilty and got up for a belated breakfast but with one decision made – the steamed dieter needs me, or more precisely, needs an article by the end of the day.



But first I must thoroughly read the newspaper – there may be news of some astronomical event or disaster that I need to be aware of – has Betelgeuse gone supernova? Have aliens emerged from their base on Jupiter? Has an electrical solar storm wiped out all electronic communication while I have been in bed? Having confirmed all is well I sit down in front of the computer screen. I find myself worrying about upper body muscular skeletal disorders and decide that the screen really needs to be a few inches higher and while shoving a book underneath it I notice a mass of spiders webs in the corner - so out comes the vacuum cleaner. And come to think of it the stairs need a clean and I might as well do it now. The stairs now spotless I return to my desk and trip over, for the nth time, a pile of books. They are soon neatly on the shelf – and I consider that it might be an opportune time to put the books in alphabetical order – but by author or subject? I wonder if there is any advice online ... And so it goes on until at midday when I am summoned to an “at a distance coffee morning” with the steamed dieter down the garden to discuss my progress on the, as yet non-existent, contribution to the Newsletter. The warm beauty of spring in Ugborough seduces me into a state of blissful mindfulness – and so life goes on – in a gentle drift of not much, but rarely what I ought.

Perhaps I should use Venus as my exemplar – there it is every night, blazing in the evening western sky. But as the May proceeds it will get lower every night until it disappears at the end of the month – but it has been a constant, pleasing, companion since before Christmas. Perhaps the run of good weather will last until around 10th May when it is joined by Mercury making one of its brief appearances. On the evenings of 23rd and 24th May there is a special celestial show when a still brilliant Venus is close to a faint Mercury along with a slim crescent moon. An ideal photo opportunity – but it requires a steady hand or a tripod. See you on the ridge road one of those evenings if it is clear - but we will keep our distance in line with current scientific advice as always!

The clear spring nights provide a wonderful opportunity for constructive social distancing and getting a bit of fresh air. Put on a couple of extra layers to keep out the chill, get out a comfortable garden chair or recliner, dust off the binoculars and settle down for 20 minutes so the eyes adjust to night vision. And let the starry sky wrap around you in the beautiful traffic free silence, with only the owls and distant cattle to distract you from the rest of the universe – and be grateful to those who are working through the night to keep us safe.

Beryl's Bookworms - Sue Webster

Due to the corona virus, we were not able to meet as usual and so nine of us joined a very successful Zoom Meeting to discuss our latest book - "Educated" by Tara Westover.



This was a memoir, giving a very well written account of how this young person's efforts to study her way out of a rough childhood in Idaho and find herself through books was a great achievement. She lived in poverty with her Mormon family growing up preparing for the End of Days but, according to the government, she didn't exist, with no birth certificate, no immunisation records, no formal education and she didn't set foot in a classroom until she was 17. Ten years later she graduated with a PhD in intellectual history from Cambridge.

It was also a story of a young woman who showed the most remarkable resilience in the face of extreme poverty, rigid religious beliefs, violence and family betrayals. She would recall the times her brother would violate her and yet she could not turn to her parents for any form of love, understanding or sympathy, she simply had to withstand her ordeals and carry on.

As she grew older, her father became more radical in his religious beliefs. At 16, Tara knew she had to leave home. In doing so she discovered both the transformative power of education, and the price she would have to pay for it.

A quote from the Guardian newspaper. "Westover has a story to tell that should not be ignored. Her background says something important about America, that even in a place of great opportunity, you can grow up without any idea of how to touch its white-hot centre. This memoir tracks all the ways that traditional American life puts up roadblocks and actively dissuades you from outgrowing your roots."

The Book Group gave this book high praise and rated it 4 out of 5

Our next book for May is "A God in Ruins" and according to the Observer, Kate Atkinson's finest work to date!

Ugborough Parish Council

Clerk: Sarah Woodman Tel: 01364 661127 Email: ugboroughpc@yahoo.co.uk

Website: <https://ugboroughparishcouncil.org>

e-newsletter: ugboroughparishcouncil.org/parish-newsletter-2020/

Like everything else in life recently, arrangements for holding the Parish Council Meeting were thrown into disarray due the Coronavirus pandemic. The work of the Parish Council has to go on and, in the end, it was decided to receive emailed submissions from Parish Councillors. Since our meeting, new legislation has come into force which enable us to hold 'remote' meetings online – let's hope our internet speeds are up to it!

The volunteer support groups in Bittaford/Wrangaton and Ugborough are doing a wonderful job to support the vulnerable within the community during the Coronavirus pandemic. Advice is available everywhere – have a look at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/> and find details of your local

support group by going to <https://www.devon.gov.uk/communities/support-groups>. Thank you everyone for your help.

The Ugborough Annual Parish Meeting has, not unsurprisingly, been cancelled – and this has now been enshrined in the new legislation. G-UP were going to make a presentation on Climate Emergency within the Parish, and I hope that we will get another opportunity to hear them in the not too distant future.

Planning applications Only one, the proposed TPO at Middle Filham, Ivybridge (Ref 1346041), which the Parish Council Supported

B3916 Pinch Points A reminder of the petition sponsored by the Parish Council to apply pressure on Devon County Highways to improve the B3196 from Kitterford Cross to Loddiswell. If you are fed up with traffic blockages, causing difficulties to local residents and businesses, then go to <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/b3916-pinch-points> (no need to make any payment).

Funding applications have proliferated as a result of Coronavirus. The Parish Council gave £50 towards printing coronavirus flyers in Ugborough and has sponsored DCC Prompt Action Fund applications for our amazing support teams in both Bittaford/Wrangaton and Ugborough.

A grant application had been received from Ugborough Village Hall to cover the cost of a building surveyor design and technical report – which will be met with a combination of DCC Locality funding and Parish Council grant.

Calor's Rural Community Fund is offering up to £5000 for projects to improve local life for communities not connected to the mains gas grid. The deadline is tight, but may be extended due to Coronavirus. [Click](#) for more information.

Wrangaton bus shelter has finally received its waste bin, so hopefully the rubbish strewn around the shelter will now be a thing of the past. Repairs are also needed to the shelter, although when that will happen with coronavirus is anyone's guess.

The Local bus service support in 2020/2021 [Consultation](#) continues to 24.4.20, although this may be extended due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Another chance to improve your Broadband speed! Ofcom [broadband universal service](#): From 20 March 2020, where households cannot get a download speed of 10 Mbit/s and an upload speed of 1 Mbit/s, they can ask BT for an upgraded connection.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held remotely on Wednesday 6th May, starting at 7 p.m. with the Annual Parish Council Meeting, when administrative arrangements for the following year will be agreed. Agenda and minutes will be displayed on the website.

Privacy policy – visit ugboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk

Bittaford Methodist Chapel *Chris Phillips 07899934743*

The coronavirus continues to spread in the UK, and we must be wise and responsible in our response to this situation.

There will be no services at present and we will advise when we are returning to normal. As a Church we will pray for all those affected by this virus in this country and abroad, remembering especially those who are mourning as a result. We will pray for the scientists and medical staff who are seeking to find a vaccine to prevent this virus and for all those in the NHS who have to care for those affected.

St. Peter's Church, Ugborough

Where is God in a Coronavirus world? *-David Stafford (Reader)*

At a time of great uncertainty and loss of freedom of movement we wonder how such a tiny virus can so order our lives in the same way that it controls human cells. As our worries loom large, questions are asked: why now and why us? Many suffer as they see loved ones being so ill and lifelong relationship so permanently shattered. That was also true for the disciples of Jesus after his brutal killing; they were so bereft. Even after his appearing to them again many were unable to believe it and so he appeared to more of them. Some, like Thomas, demanded evidence. Others were unaware that he really was among them until he revealed something special about himself so that they did recognise him. A person that can be killed and yet comes back to life demands some reaction as to what kind of person that could be. Someone, that is, who is surely so special that his words and actions on this Earth bear further study and what was it about his dying and coming back to life that has become so important to Christians?

A friend, John Lennox, has recently written a small book: **“Where is God in a Coronavirus world?”** Among many issues discussed he mentions Martin Luther who, in the bubonic plague in the early 1500's, did not flee his hometown to safety but stayed to help with ministering to those who were ill. Early Christians created hospitals concentrating on hygiene urging that negligence of the sick was unacceptable. As we are self-isolating, we remember those among us who are caring for the sick: nurses, medics, technicians, paramedics, administrators, drivers delivering food and waste collectors among many others.

Let us keep them all in our prayers and thoughts and do all we can to encourage one another in this very unusual time. On appearing to his friends Jesus said to them, “Peace be with you”. May we know his peace.

From Rev'd Paul Hancock- Often people say to me that it is lucky that the lockdown is now when the sun is shining and not in the winter when the days are dark. But even on the dark days the sun still shines even if we can't see it. A prisoner in Germany during the War etched on his cell wall I believe in the sun, even when I cannot see it. I believe in love even when I cannot feel it. I believe in God, even when it appears that he is silent.

As the sun does not stop shining even on the dark days but we can't see it so God does not stop being with us to sustain us even if it is not always apparent. God is our hope and strength a very present help in trouble

A message from our Rector- Rev'd David Sayle

Covid 19

The church continues to be alive and active, but our buildings must close.

We are seeing a huge increase in the number of people falling sick with Covid 19. We must distance ourselves from one another and prevent the spread of infection in order to save lives.

Therefore, as well as public worship being suspended, St Peter's and all church buildings in the Church of England are now closed.

Our worship of God and community care for each other continues but cannot be done in this building.

Our website contains details of how to join others for prayer, worship, study and community life. See the Three Mission Community website for details

www.threeriversmissioncommunity.org.uk

(This week saw the first virtual coffee morning- via Zoom!)

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and withal your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

To protect the vulnerable amongst us please don't leave your home except for essential trips.

Virtual weekly services and events using Zoom-

Monday	am	Collective	Worship	(School	Assembly)
Tuesday	pm	Sunday Gospel	Reflection,	followed by	Compline
Wednesday	pm	Compline			
Thursday	am	Coffee			Morning
Sunday	am	Sunday Service	(alternating between	Eucharistic and	
Non				Eucharistic)	
1st Sunday	pm	3RMC	Messy		Church
of		the			month

If you wish to join in with the weekly Mission Community Services or other events, please email: parish_sayle@me.com and put Zoom in the subject .

As well as being able to join these activities via the computer, people are also able to join via the telephone. If you know of anybody, who would like to join us, please let me know and I will make contact with them and supply the necessary details.

I have recently signed up to a telephone conference system, which like zoom, will only cost the caller their operator's standard geographic call rate. So hopefully, if people would prefer, we will offer a short Sunday service via the telephone.

If you would prefer to be part of a 'Telephone Sunday Service', please let me know or if you are aware of somebody else, who would like to join us via the telephone then again, please let me know.

It would be lovely for you to join with us during this period of Lockdown.

Many Thanks and God Bless, *David*

Please see notices in the Church noticeboard and on the Three Rivers and ugborough.com websites for updates.

The **Three Rivers Mission Community** covers the parishes of Diptford, Ermington, Halwell, Harberton, Harbertonford, Moreleigh, North Huish and Ugborough.

You can find out about everything that's going on across all the parishes at its website,

www.threeriversmissioncommunity.org.uk

For all church business and parish matters, please contact

Rev'd David Sayle, The Rectory Diptford Totnes Devon TQ9 7NY

01548 821199 email ***parish_sayle@me.com***.

Village services.

The mobile library service is currently suspended.

A Message from Maureen Tubman

Margaret Froome and I would like to thank all the workers in the community who are doing so much to help the elderly with particular thanks to Nellie, Charlotte, Winnie and Sarah for her lovely goodies.

It really is much appreciated.

Stay safe and God bless.

*I'm sure that those of us who are 'vulnerable' (and it's been a great shock to me to realise that I am included in that category) would add a hearty 'hear, hear' to these thanks-
Support Ugborough- you are amazing! We are all so grateful.*

Contributions

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this 2nd far from normal Newsletter.

Contributions should be sent by e mail to Mrs. Norma Roe, The Editor, Ugborough Parish Newsletter at norma-davidroe@tiscali.co.uk

The deadline is 15th of the month please. Thank you for keeping to this.

Your Newsletter is available online at the Parish Council website <https://ugboroughparishcouncil.org> and at the village website <https://ugborough.com>

A few hard copies have been produced for those without internet availability and many thanks to Peter Povey for printing these and to those safely distributing them.

Views published in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Newsletter Group, or of any other contributing group. Contributions are published at the Editor's discretion. The Editor's decision is final.