



Ugborough Parish Newsletter

January 2021



What's on

Monday January	4 th	1 st day of Spring term	Page 4
Wednesday January	8 th	Ugborough Parish Council meeting at 7.30 p.m. via zoom	Page 9
Tuesday January	12 th	G Up meeting at 8 p.m. via zoom	Page 4

Details of services at Bittaford Methodist Church are on Page 6

Details of services at St. Peter's Church, Ugborough are on Page 10

Support Ugborough -Sue Johns

In collaboration with the Village Hall Committee, the Support Group secured grant funds from Western Power's 'in it together' initiative. Huge thanks to Kate Brampton for compiling the successful grant application.

With this Grant we were able to buy festive goods and to reimburse expenses to local residents who made use of their culinary skills to make up hampers that contained, homemade jam, chutney, bread, gingerbread, mince pies, Christmas cake, Christmas puddings, shortbread, hand painted cards, winter posies, table decorations, Buck's Fizz, mulled wine, chocolates, nuts, diaries, fairy lights, pens, diffusers and soaps - all presented in a festive hessian bag.

The Support Group collated and packed the bags in the Village Hall and Santa delivered to those in the community who mostly live alone, many of whom have rarely left their houses since March - and for whom Christmas is just another day of continued isolation.

We are delighted to report that recipients were absolutely thrilled and touched to be so privileged - and warmly expressed their heartfelt gratitude.

We do hope this gesture of Christmas cheer will help them through what promises to be a long and tough winter.

The Support Group remains at the ready and is able to help in any way - including providing transport to anyone who is unable to arrange their own travel to a vaccination centre.

Please just contact your local Support Member known to you ... or Sue Johns 07889 737967
Katie Lloyd 07919 028839

Ceremonial flying of the Flag.

The flag will be flown on the following occasions-

January 9th

Birthday of the Duchess of Cambridge

January 20th

Birthday of the Countess of Wessex



Ugborough and Bittaford Pre- School-(incorporating breakfast club and after school club)

Charity Number 1043499- *Contributor-Danielle*

Open 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday – Friday during term time in Ugborough Village Hall

Baby and Toddler Group (drop-in) – Monday 1.30-3 p.m.

Contact 07763215455

admin@ugboroughandbittafordpre-school.org.uk

Now the Autumn term has come to an end and this year's festivities are well underway, I hope the children and staff have a well-deserved rest during the Christmas period. Although a lot has changed this past year, one thing that has remained, is the Christmas spirit and cheer within the pre-school. December is always an exciting month for the children, as they enjoy making ornaments for their trees at home and decorating the village hall.

This month the children have been extremely busy with cooking, making decoration and the staff also laid on a Christmas party as the annual Christmas trip to Pennywell farm this year had to be cancelled due to the current pandemic. The children also enjoyed a Christmas dinner.

The children are still able to get outside whilst wrapped up warm to take part in Forest school activities and outdoor play with the occasional trip to the local park.

The Preschool raffle has been extremely popular this year and we thank you for your continued support in such uncertain times. The draw took place on Monday the 14th December with prizes being collected at the village hall.

The Preschool is still open to new faces, so if your child likes a diverse range of playing inside and exploring the great outdoors then come and see us at Ugborough and Bittaford pre-school. You can contact Tania for further information-contact details as above.

Please also continue to support us through your Amazon purchases. If you select 'smile Amazon' before checkout and then select 'Ugborough and Bittaford Preschool' as your chosen charity. We will receive a small percentage of your total amount spent at no extra cost to yourselves.



Please note there will not be a Messy Church this month.

We look forward to welcoming you to the online service on the first Sunday of next month.

The Beacon Federation - *Executive Headteacher - Mrs. Karen Dixon*

Ugborough Primary School.

Social Distancing at the School Gate –a message from Devon County Council.

We have received requests, passed on from communities living near schools/working near schools, that parents remain socially distanced, during drop-off or collection of their children, from each other and other members of the public they pass. If possible, parents and teenagers are also requested to wear masks.

'Save the Children' Christmas Jumper Day.

It was lovely to see so many of you supporting this worthy cause today, what lovely jumpers and festive decorations you found! Thank you everyone who was able to donate today, your money will be hugely appreciated by those in need

Monday 4th January–First day of Spring Term



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

Faith Matthews

SAVE THE DATE! We're kicking off the New Year with a *Wildlife and Biodiversity group meet* **Tues 12th January at 8 p.m.** via zoom. This is open to absolutely anyone.

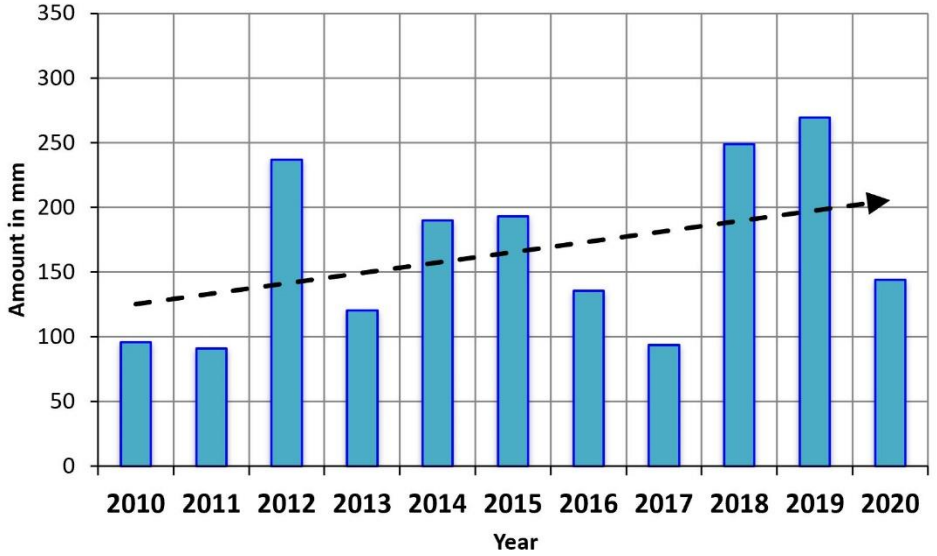
Our Steering Group have been drumming up ideas for local wildlife and biodiversity projects and we want to know what you think...In this meeting, have your say on which ideas you think would most benefit the Parish and how to turn these ideas in to action.

If you would like to attend, please drop us a line at greenerugp@gmail.com so we can send you further info nearer the time and of course the zoom meeting link.

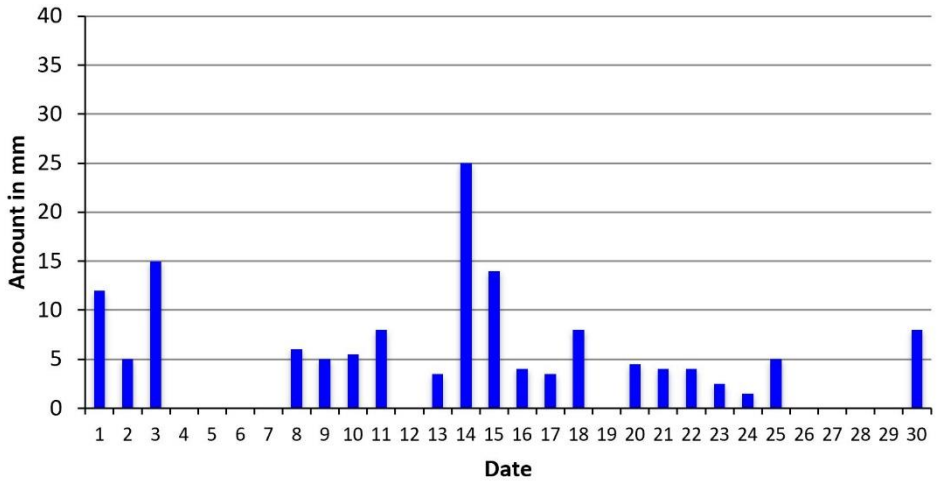
Rainfall at Shellwood Hill *George Arnison*

November this year stands out for....well not very much really. We had another lockdown, it rained most days (but only a bit), was generally unsettled and overcast and didn't feel particularly hot or cold. All pretty run of the mill. At Shellwood Hill I recorded 144mm of rain (just under 6") overall which compares to my 11-year average for the month of 165mm. Apparently it was particularly mild after all, globally being the second warmest November in the 141-year record of Novembers - almost 1 degree C warmer than the 20th century average....and the 44th consecutive November which has exceeded that average. Just need a little bit more sunshine to go with it please.

November rainfalls and Trend



Rainfall in November 2020



Beryl's Bookworms – Joan Fletcher

Our book this month was *Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernardine Evaristo. Evaristo writes fiction, poetry and drama and is Professor of Creative Writing at Brunel University. *Girl, Woman, Other* is her eighth book and she was the co-winner of the 2019 Booker Prize, the first black woman to win the prize.



Evaristo has set up many successful projects aimed at the inclusion of writers and artists of colour and was awarded an OBE in the Queen's 2020 birthday honours.

The book follows the lives of 12 characters, most black women, in Britain over the course of several decades. Their ages range from 19 to 93 and they come from different cultural backgrounds and are a mix of sexualities. The novel charts their hopes, struggles and intersecting lives. The book is a snapshot of these overlapping lives as the characters move through the world in different decades and learn how to be. Each character has a chapter but within the chapter their lives overlap, although their experiences, backgrounds and choices are very different. Characters that would often be peripheral in another author's work are, in this book, central to the story. The writing style is experimental, and the prose feels more like poetry with no capital letters and little punctuation. The author says the form is *"free-flowing and it allowed me to be inside the characters' heads and go all over the place."* We found this style of writing easy to read.

The author says she is *"deeply interested in how we become the people we are"*. This comes over in the stories of the individual characters and added to our enjoyment of the book.

However, there were elements of the story that some of us thought unrealistic, particularly the ending and some of us also found it difficult at times to keep track of all the characters. During our discussion the subject matter was sometimes described as 'edgy'. Evaristo herself says *"for many readers, it's not a familiar world, this is a Britain less often depicted in fiction"*. It may be an unfamiliar world to many of us but most of us enjoyed the book and found it an enlightening and uplifting experience.

The range of scores was from 3 to 5 and we gave the book an overall score of 4.5 out of 5.

Our book next month is *10 Minutes 38 Seconds* in this Strange World by Elif Shafak.

Bittaford Methodist Chapel Chris Phillips 07899934743

Services at Bittaford Chapel for January

Sunday 3rd January 11 a.m. John Pointon

Sunday 10th January 6 p.m. Revd Lawrence. - communion service.

Sunday 17th January 11 a.m. Sue Bolt

Sunday 24th January 11 a.m. Mike Cade

Sunday 31st January 11 a.m. Keith Angilley.

In the New Year the chapel will be getting a new roof ensuring its future use as a chapel and a community resource.



Your Stars Tonight. At the beginning of the December I was summoned to the steamed dieter's office for a lockdown briefing. It is made clear to me that my 2020 induced indolence and general aimless meandering over the last year needed to be addressed and I was invited to draw up a list of self improvement projects which would keep Christmas Lockdown Blues at bay. It was made clear that these projects were expected to involve paint brushes, stepladders, advanced carpentry, patio building and similar exercises to strengthen moral fibre.

With hindsight this was not the best time for me to announce my plans for the Great Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn on the 21st December. For the three weeks before and after the great event I intended to take photographs at precisely 5.31 pm, framing the planets above St Peter's Church. From these I would create a video capturing the planetary *pas de deux* ballet as Jupiter and Saturn came together and then parted symbolising their eternal cosmic circlings around the sun. Warming to the subject I described how it might be premiered in the Village Hall to a rapturous and vaccinated audience. Perhaps I was being a trifle facetious when I suggested that the steamed dieter could lead community singing of *twinkle, twinkle, little star*, for it was at this point I perceived a distinct cooling of the matrimonial atmosphere and a preference for my skills being directed at the leak from the waste pipe under the sink.

Alas, the British weather also poured cold water on my plans and the unending rain /drizzle/ downpour that swept across Ugborough in first weeks of December. By the evening of the 18th the complete absence of photographs was getting embarrassing, so despite an unpromising forecast for around sunset, I gritted teeth and headed up the hill festooned with photographic tripods, cameras and lenses.

I congratulated myself on arriving in good time just minutes after sunset – although that was well disguised by 100% cloud cover. I fussed about setting up tripods and cameras and was astounded to look up and find the skies had cleared except for a line of clouds over the sea. This was the big moment! The clouds parted again to reveal, just above Mothecombe, a stunning Crescent Moon making a thin and fragile curve with the shadowed side tinted with the faintest pink from the earthshine. And then, as the twilight deepened, Jupiter and Saturn appeared less than a Moon's width apart, high above the moon and directly over St Peter's Church.

The astronomy photograph of the year was being gifted to me as an early Christmas present.

Phut, clunk ...the camera battery went flat. Then as the bank of cloud crept higher and the moon sank lower, I realised the picture was out of focus and as I scabbled with the camera controls, my glasses fell off into the wet grass. In desperation, I take some photographs only to realise the moon has disappeared behind the clouds and my perfect photograph of the conjunction has slipped away for another 400 years. With this realisation, it seemed appropriate to thrust my head unto nearby gorse bush to alleviate artistic anguish.

In truth I did get a half decent photograph – and on reflection it is going to be one of my favourite photographs of 2020: for there just below the planets is the illuminated tower of St Peter's Church, the lights of the Christmas tree and the neighbouring houses – a reminder of how lucky I am to live in such a place and with such friends and family – no better place to be in this strange year of 2020 and something that can never be captured digitally.

Ugborough Parish Council

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

Website: <https://ugboroughparishcouncil.org>

January Newsletter

Happy New Year! 2021 promises to be a momentous year, as we say goodbye to Covid, and our vibrant community can get together again. After our December Parish Council Meeting, it was rather sad not to head off to the pub for some Christmas drinks – but hopefully the coming year will be far more enjoyable!

Christmas would not have been nearly so jolly without festive lights. Thank you to Richard Prowse for providing the tree, Cllr Ed Johns & his Covid-aware helpers for erecting the lights, to Lilly Cross for suggesting and displaying the tree lights in the Square, and to Cllr Nelson for displaying the tree lights in Bittaford.

County Cllr Hosking reported, at the start of our Meeting, on the new Covid statistics and local restrictions. Funding is available for those facing hardship:

- For families facing hardship over the Christmas break - an online application is available at <https://southhams.gov.uk/help> and the helpline telephone number is (01803) 861297.
- DCC is offering grants of £300 to £700 for Parish Councils and voluntary bodies to help those obliged to self-isolate or quarantine – go to <https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/covid-19-fund/>
- A new grant from £500 to £934 is available for businesses who are not subject to Non-Domestic Rating and have suffered significant financial impact or have been closed.
- Guidance on how to obtain help is available for Parishioners is available from the CAB 0344 411 1444, and ‘soft touch’ signposting for businesses through the Heart of the Southwest Local Enterprise Partnership 03456 047047

Complaints had been received that the character of the A3121 had been lost, with the installation of kerbstones and removal of grass triangles at junctions, and Cllr Hosking explained that the Safer Road Fund package was relatively inflexible – but this loss of character should be balanced with the net improvements from the scheme. The 6m width of the improved A3121 was designed so that HGVs could pass, but excess speed would be discouraged.

Waste collections had suffered disruption due to a Covid outbreak, and District Cllr Abbott advised that uncollected waste should be taken in until the next scheduled collection – hopefully, this problem will be past news by the time this Newsletter is published!

Planning applications – with recommendations in **bold**:

[3651/20/FUL](#) Application for new driveway and 15 car park spaces at Cannamore House, Avonwick **Support**

[3542/20/FUL](#) Application for new agricultural access and track at Venn Farm Ugborough **Support**

[2399/20/FUL](#) READVERTISEMENT (Revised Plans Received) Change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian use, erection of single storey barn for use as stables for horses and hay storage, new access track, and retention of storage shed and manure stockpile area on concrete base at Lot A Earlscombe Farm, Ugborough **Object, as adequate plans have still not been provided and there is no justification for the stable to be located at the far end of the field**

[3532/20/FUL](#) Application for construction of detached 4 bed dwelling and double garage as modification to planning application 0242/18/FUL at Godwell House, Godwell Lane, Ivybridge **Neutral**

[0526/20](#) Construction of garage at Maple Lodge, Bittaford **Neutral**

[3676/20/FUL](#) Change of use of land to residential curtilage/garden at The Beeches, Ermington Road, Ivybridge **Neutral**

[0464/20](#) Amendments to design of pergola/screen. Replacement extension to include external pergola/screen walls at Windbells, 5 Highfield Terrace, Bittaford **Object. Proposal is a breach of Policy DMD4 as it would have an overbearing and dominant impact on the neighbouring property. Applicant has not complied with the previous breach of condition notice**

[3653/20/HHO](#) Householder application for fence to enclose back garden (retrospective) at 1 Butterdon Walk, Ivybridge PL21 0HS **Neutral**

Grant funding from the Parish Council was made available for local good causes. Citizens Advice South Hams was awarded £150 – they have experienced a huge surge in demand during the pandemic. Libraries Unlimited were granted £100 towards the refurbishment of a second-hand van to replace their current Ivybridge Mobile Library with the aim of ‘bringing books and a lifeline to 80 rural communities in South Hams and West Devon’.

The consultation of the Interim Devon Carbon Plan is currently under wraps, but will be well publicised by the time the Newsletter is published. The publicity states that ‘Residents will have the chance to shape the county’s roadmap to creating a net-zero Devon, where people and nature thrive’. The topics range from active travel, renewable energy, and improved air quality to better insulation and warmer homes, reduced fuel poverty and eating more balanced diets. These actions will help to create a fairer, healthier and stronger Devon. From December 7th, have your say at www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk/interimcarbonplan or request a paper copy and consultation questionnaire from your local library from January 1st.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held remotely on Wednesday 6th January starting at 7.30 p.m., when the budget and precept for the next financial year will be agreed. Agenda and minutes will be displayed on the website and noticeboards.

Privacy policy – visit ugboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk

St. Peter's Church, Ugborough

St Peter's Church Services in January

We are delighted to be able to invite you back into our church for regular services but please note that numbers are limited due to Covid restrictions – so please book your place by e mailing or ringing David Stafford dasecl@aol.com 01752 691525.

All services now start at 4.30 p.m. unless otherwise stated.

Date	Service
Sunday 3 rd January	Evening service
Sunday 17 th January	All Age Evening service

It will be necessary to wear face coverings at all services and strict hygiene measures will be in place.

Every Sunday at 9.30 a.m.- Holy Communion at Ermington. You need to book place with Peter and Lesley Thurley e mail- services@ermingtonchurch.org.uk

Mission Community Services online via Zoom or telephone.

Please contact Rev'd David Sayle on 01548 821199 or at parish_sayle@me.com for further information, and by 6 p.m. the day before for login details.

Every Sunday at 11 a.m.- Sunday Service

There are also evening services at other churches in the Mission Community on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 3.30 p.m.- see www.3rivers.org.uk for full details.

Mid-week Holy Communion services are held on Wednesdays at Harberton (9.30 a.m.) and Diptford (10.30 a.m.)

Christmas morning service

It was so lovely to welcome many of you to the service on Christmas morning, particularly the children who we have missed so much. We were delighted to see old friends and our friends from Ermington who joined us on this special day.

Thank you to Rev'd Paul Hancock who led this service and below is his Christmas and New Year message.

Love came down at Christmas. “Unto us a boy is born the King of all Creation”.

Christmas gives us the chance to reflect on the significance of those words. A small infant is vulnerable and dependent. It has no words. But the infant Christ is one who brings life and hope.

We celebrate an event simple yet so divine that it stops us in our tracks. An event that proclaims that God the Father and Creator has made Himself known to us in the only way possible for us, in the birth of a child, Jesus Christ. God in the birth of Jesus stoops down to us in order to raise us up to heaven. in the words of the carol, “Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love Divine. Love was born at Christmas. Stars and Angels gave the sign.”

Here is an event which has eternal consequences. The celebration of Christ’s birth is not something we can put away with the tree and decorations and forget for another year. It touches our lives for in his ministry we see God immersed in our humanity. We see His compassion, forgiveness, healing and love.

Jesus said, “He who has seen me, has seen the Father also.”

A new year lies before us. We cannot tell how it will plan out. What we do know is that whatever we face Jesus Christ will be with us to uphold us for he said, “I am with you even to the close of the age.”

“Unto us a Boy is born.” Place yourself in His hands. He can straighten out the tangles of life. He will be with us and give us the strength to endure This is the Heart of Christmas for Jesus is “Emmanuel,” which means “God with us.”

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.3rivers.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.

A reminder that you can visit the Devon Libraries Mobile Library Service at Ugborough Square, Tuesdays from 9.30 a.m.-10 a.m. every 4 weeks. The date for January is 19th. And don't forget to visit your Post Office in Ugborough Church on Thursday morning from 10 a.m. – 12 noon.

Changes to collection days over the Christmas/New Year period

Friday 1st January changed to **Tuesday 5th January**

Friday 8th January changed to **Monday 11th January**

From 11th-15th January- all collections one day late

From 18th January- normal collection days.

Please visit www.southhams.gov.uk for information about what can be recycled after Christmas including ideas on how to reduce, reuse and recycle. Advice includes what to do with Advent calendars, decorations, cars, wrapping paper, Christmas trees and any left-over food.

Contributions

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this 11th 'new normal' Newsletter.

A few hard copies have been produced for those without internet availability and many thanks to Peter Povey for printing these for us while the college is on holiday, and to those safely distributing them.

I am very much looking forward to when we can go back to our usual paper format, (who would have thought it would be so long?)but we must keep our volunteer distributors and all who receive the Newsletter safe.

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>

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.