

Ugborough Parish Newsletter

January 2022



What's on

Tuesday 4 th January	1 st day of Spring Term	Page 3
Wednesday 5 th January	Ugborough Parish Council meets at Ugborough Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.	Pages 9-10
Wednesday 12 th January	G-Up meeting via zoom at 7.45 p.m.	Page 4
Saturday 15 th January	Ugborough Sustainable Saturday at Ugborough Village Hall from 10 a.m.-12 noon	Page 2
Wednesday 19 th January	Ladies' Lunch at The Ship at 12 noon Wildlife and Diversity meeting via zoom at 7.45 p.m.	Page 2 Page 4
Saturday 29 th January	Ugborough Sustainable Saturday at Ugborough Village Hall from 10 a.m.-12 noon	Page 2

Details of services at Bittaford Methodist Church are on Page 5

Details of services at St. Peter's Church, Ugborough are on Page 11

Thanks

I would like to give my sincere thanks to all who help with the Newsletter.

Thanks to Sue Johns, our Treasurer, Ivybridge Community College for the duplicating, to Anne Holway for the distribution, to Tom Holway for the e mail distribution, to my proof reader, David Roe, to the many members of the delivery team, and of course to all the faithful contributors for your interesting and varied articles.

Thank you also to all those who help us financially. We are very grateful for your support, both individuals and organisations. Every donation is most welcome.

We are proud of our Newsletter, which apart from the very reasonable printing costs, is produced completely voluntarily.

We continue to be able to say 'no' to any commercial advertising and hope that you continue to enjoy it as it lands on your doormat each month.

Ugborough Sustainable Saturdays- Val Holman

Ugborough Sustainable Saturdays will be back in January! We will be in the village hall on Saturday 15th and Saturday 29th January from 10 – 12 noon, with stalls, cafe andwait for it the famous bacon butties! We look forward to seeing everyone, and wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year. Any questions? Get in touch at ugboroughss@gmail.com

The Thursday Coffee Morning

in St Peter's Church is BACK, alongside our continuing weekly Post Office.

Pop along for a beverage and cake between 10 and 11.45 a.m.

Please make use of the hand gel and wear masks until seated. All are welcome!

Ugborough Ladies' Lunch

The next ladies' lunch will be 19th January at 12 noon at The Ship .

Contact Pat Stephens 07704 113837 to book.

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- *Tess Watkinson*

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

Contact

07763215455

admin@ugboroughandbittafordpre-school.org.uk

The days have really shortened, and it's certainly been a wet December, so we've been making the most of the indoors to get excited about Christmas. The children love having the tree and decorations up and have been using our weekly cooking session to make marshmallow snowmen, cinnamon biscuits, and mince pies. We've also been doing plenty of Christmas crafts including lovely, brightly- painted stockings to take home as Christmas cards.

We had a great trip to Pennywell Farm accompanied by lots of parents whom we thank. The weather was kind to us, and the children loved seeing the animals, watching the nativity and, of course, meeting Father Christmas! The Preschool Committee paid for all the children demonstrating our commitment to giving the children a wonderful time and diverse experiences.

The raffle was a huge success with fantastic prizes donated by local businesses and individuals. The Preschool Committee worked very hard getting such a wealth of goodies and were blown away by the generosity of those they approached: a real pulling together of the community! It has paid off with excellent ticket sales so thank you to the families of our children and the local community for buying so many! We are sure the winners enjoyed their prizes.

Of course, all the money from the raffle goes straight into our new building fundraising-pot. Plans for this continue apace so watch this space!

Finally, we do still have places available for certain days in January. We open 8 a.m.-6 p.m. five days a week and can share funding with other settings so are very flexible and happy to consider any request. We take children aged two years upwards so if you think your little one would like to enjoy the village facilities and rural environment with us, please give us a call or an email using the details above. We'd love to hear from you.

Ugborough Primary School

Spring Term

We hope of course that schools will reopen as normal in January, but we are also aware that this cannot be guaranteed. Please be aware that in the event of any significant Government announcement concerning schools we will respond appropriately and keep parents updated via email.

We hope that all our children have a happy and healthy New Year and look forward to welcoming them back on **Tuesday 4th January.**

Conversion to academy status as a member of the Westcountry Schools Trust (WeST)

We now expect our conversion to academy status as part of the Westcountry Schools Trust (WeST) to take place with effect from 1 January 2022. This follows a meeting of WeST trustees yesterday, where the proposal was unanimously agreed.

This is a very exciting time for our three schools. Each will remain as an individual entity with its own character and ethos, but we look forward to becoming part of a strong and vibrant organisation and joining a collaborative network of support and expertise which will enable us all to thrive long into the future.

We now expect the Beacon Federation to officially dissolve with effect from 1st January. From that date, Mrs Dixon will therefore no longer be the Executive Head of the three schools. She will remain as Headteacher at Manor, with Lucy French in this role at Ugborough and Mark Mitchell at Ermington. Mrs Dixon will also be Hub Leader, encompassing our three schools and also Holbeton Primary School.

It has been a pleasure working as a Federation of our three schools. The last two years have been a challenging and turbulent time, but we have formed an incredibly strong, supportive and effective relationship which will continue to flourish. This is in no way 'goodbye' – we will carry on working and growing together within a new context.



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

Faith Matthews

Wishing everyone a peaceful New Year ahead. And hoping you might be able to join us for either (or both)

of these two forthcoming opportunities:

G-UP meeting – Wednesday 12th January at 7.45 p.m. - Anyone is welcome at this open meeting! Led by our Steering Group, we'll be recapping on where we are with each of our strands/working groups and deciding on some action points to set us off into 2022. At a time when regular activities have been difficult, this evening aims to give an insight into where G-UP is focussing its energies and what there is to get involved with. If you are interested in getting involved or are just curious about G-UP is all about, do please join us – we'd love to see you.

Wildlife and Biodiversity group meeting - Wednesday 19th January at 7.45 p.m.

This will be dedicated to discussing ideas for a *community nature reserve* (a linking of local gardens with wildlife-friendly features). If you are interested in wildlife gardening this could be the group for you! We are looking for a small team of enthusiasts who could help get this initiative off the ground. It has the potential to be very positive environmentally as well as educational - so please get in touch if you would like to be involved (no previous experience necessary)!

Both meetings are currently planned for Zoom – please email us to receive the link to join.

Other Wildlife and Biodiversity Group related info...

Hedgehog News – Susan Williams

In November we had a fun meeting about all things ‘hedgehog’. We got an update on all the parish rehomed hogs, which are doing well. They are being regularly seen and eating lots of food. They are even leaving their ‘calling card’ on front doorsteps! There is now lots of information about hedgehogs on the GUP notice board in Ugborough Bus shelter and on the notice board at Moorhaven.

If you are concerned about a hedgehog, please contact our local rescue centres for advice.

- ELM Wildlife hedgehog Rescue & Rehabilitation 07971276658
- Prickles in a Pickle 07891657104
- South Devon Hedgehog Hospital 07716768618

Or the British Hedgehog Preservation Society 01584 890801

At this time of year, it is very important to keep feeding them and offering a shallow dish of water. The hedgehogs are getting ready for hibernation as the weather gets colder. They will still wake from time to time during hibernation so dry food and water left out is still important.

Do you want to learn more about hedgehogs and do something to help this iconic British mammal that is in severe decline? Look at www.hedgehogstreet.org run by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and (PTES) Peoples Trust for Endangered Species. The website is packed with information and why not join me in signing up to be a Hedgehog Champion?

Please find G-UP on Facebook or drop us a line if you would like to be added to our email circulation list so as to hear about future events directly or get involved:

greenerugp@gmail.com

Bittaford Methodist Chapel Chris Phillips 07899934743

All services start at 11 a.m.

2nd January- Revd Youngs - Communion

9th January- Revd Roper

16th January- To be advised

23rd January- N Norris

30th January- A Stevens,

Beryl's Bookworms – Norma Roe

In December we enjoyed a wonderful dinner with a Mexican theme at Sue Johns' (see January's book) and played games courtesy of Sharon.

Really great fun.

Our book for January is a very sombre offering- American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins.



Lots going on in Ivybridge in January!

Ivybridge Community Hub

- Discover new activities
- Connect with others
- Open to all (over 18)
- Free to attend
- Free refreshments

To find out about the different groups and activities that take place in and around Ivybridge, then information is available at the Community Hub. This is a free drop in located in The Watermark on Tuesday mornings between 10.30 a.m. and 12 noon.

Each week a different group or activity join the group to share what they do, and then the activity is tried out, followed by tea, coffee and a biscuit.

The next series of activities starts on Tuesday 18th January and runs for 6 weeks (not including February half term- 22nd February).

There is no need to book or sign up. Just turn up on the day and you will be very welcome.

Children's storytelling and activities

On Saturday 29th January from 10 a.m.- 12 noon, Ivybridge Bookshop is hosting a special event for children with local picture book authors.

For more information contact the bookshop on 01752 289 724 or visit the website

www.ivybridgebookshop.com

Churches together -Ivybridge

You are invited to another Taize service on Sunday 30th January at 4.30 p.m. at St John's church Ivybridge

Ivybridge Caring

Can you give an hour or two a week to help a lonely elderly person?

Volunteers are needed to join the dedicated team.

For more information-drop in for a chat at The Community Room, The Watermark, Ivybridge or call 07791 239 357

Or email info@ivybridgecaring.co.uk

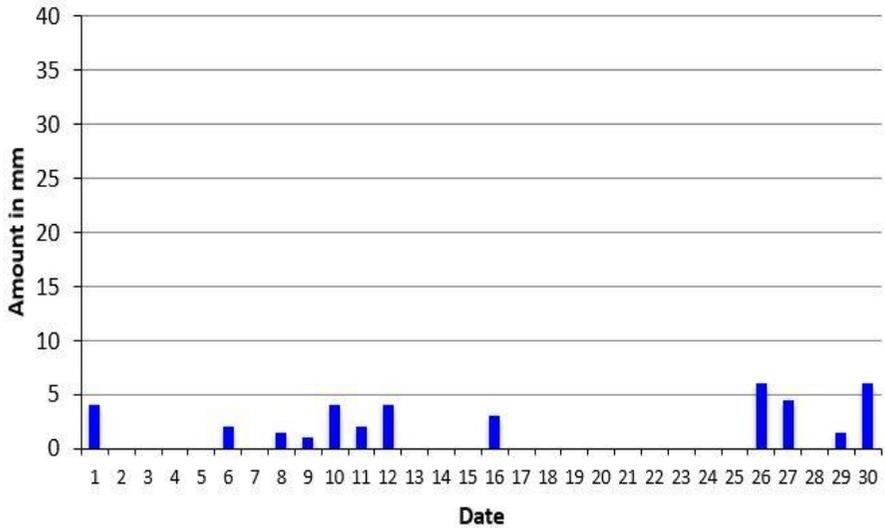
Rainfall at Shellwood Hill *George Arnison*

We had an exceptionally mild and dry November this year. I recorded just 39.5mm (1½") of rain at Shellwood Hill – which was around just a quarter of my average for the month of 155mm.

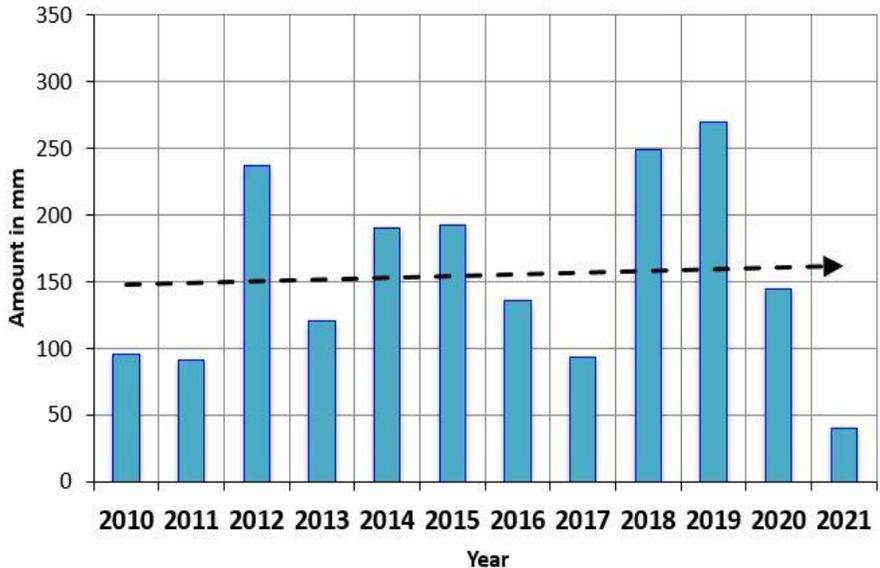
Locally this was by some distance the driest November in the last 12 years, and globally it was the fourth warmest November on record.

November marks the end of the North Atlantic hurricane season which can bring major autumnal storms to our shores. This year was the third most active season since the record began in 1850, and there were 21 tropical Atlantic Storms. Thankfully, only one of these turned into a named storm in the UK however: Storm Arwen caused devastation on the 26/27th November up north, but down here we largely escaped with a fairly un-notable wet and windy day.

Rainfall in November 2021



November rainfalls and Trend





Your Stars Tonight. I have been exploring the winter Milky Way – much dimmer than the one visible on summer nights, but still arching faintly overhead North to South and much obscured by dust between us and the more distant stars of our galaxy. This is very evident in the area of the Orion constellation where the fainter stars are blotted out to leave Orion’s familiar outline to stand out against a black starless background.

On the one good night in this December, I photographed the area of sky around the bright star Alnitak on the left-hand end of Orion’s Belt. At the bottom of the image the huge dust cloud is almost completely obscuring the stars except where new-born stars are gobbling up the cosmic dust to fuel their nuclear reactors. These young stars are already burning through the surrounding dust lighting it up in the garish yellow glow that is the aptly named Flame Nebula. A haze of gas glows with beautiful pinks and blues as it is irradiated by the fearsome energy of these youthful stars. And then at the very edge of the dust cloud is the iconic Horse Head Dark Nebula – truly looking as if it has just arrived from a theatre production of Michael Morpurgo’s *War Horse*. And where did the contents of this cosmic dustbin come from? Mostly from the death throes of countless generations of previous stars that expired in super nova explosions over the twelve billion years. So the best title for my photograph might be *Cosmic Recycling Plant at Work* – I just wish earth bound ones were as photogenic!

At the same time I was worrying about a story circulating that someone working for an automotive company had said that scrap batteries from electric cars were going to be a potential environmental disaster and they would end up being dumped in the Beaufort Trench in the Irish Sea. I was more than a little concerned by this news since I have dozen clients who I advise on environmental and waste legislation, and I am also a strong advocate of electric cars – had I got it wrong?

A trawl through the current and proposed law on scrap cars and waste batteries suggested there had been no change from the strict pre-Brexit rules. And the recent news about why one of the reasons for not building a tunnel under the Irish Sea was the million tonnes of redundant WWII munitions that were dumped before international law banned the practice of deep-sea disposal indicated a possible source of the story. Eventually I tracked it down to the Engineering & Technology website story <https://eandt.theiet.org/content/articles/2020/07/evs-batteries-and-the-multi-million-tonne-scrap-heap/> which gives an excellent summary of the problems.

Yes – once again the human race has been very good at coming up with *whizzo* ideas for quick technical fixes - like electric cars. And Yes - yet again we are breath takingly inept at thinking through what is going to happen to the inevitable mountains of waste. Think Sellafield nuclear plant, or plastic rubbish in the oceans, let alone the side effects of burning fossil fuel. At this moment we have ways of recycling thousands of batteries rather than the millions which we will be faced with in ten years -so it is fingers crossed that we find a solution in time - as always.

As to predicting the night sky in January 2022 I can authoritatively state that stars will continue to shine, and early evening planetary displays by the Moon, Venus, Jupiter and Saturn will still be up there. Unfortunately, I can also predict that our chances of seeing them through the meteorological murk that has descended on Ugborough are pretty remote.

Ugborough Parish Council

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

Website: <https://ugboroughparishcouncil.org>

Proposals for a school for high-functioning autistic secondary age children off Rutt Lane, on the eastern fringe of Ivybridge were presented by Simon Niles, Strategic Planning Children's Services, at the start of the December Meeting. The school would hold up to 100 pupils and was due to be completed by September 2024. An Outline Planning Application will be submitted, giving more details of the scheme. Parish Councillors considered that, although the proposed use was not in accordance with the current local plan, it was now unlikely that the health centre would relocate to the site and DCC needed the facility. They therefore supported the proposal, in principle, but expressed disappointment that there would be no health centre on the site.

Highway matters, as ever, were raised. The lane surface to Earlscombe Farm would be 'dragon patched' (which does sound exciting) as an interim measure until the lane can be added to the resurfacing list. Kitterford Cross improvements were unlikely to proceed until Spring 2022. Annoyingly, we seem no further on with clearing the blocked drains on the lanes down from Toby Cross and Hillhead – the Clerk has contacted DCC Highways again, pointing out that homes at the base of the hill stood a real chance of being flooded.

South Hams District Council news: £250k Forestry Commission funding had been granted for 'standard' trees, which would include their maintenance for 3 years. A [Severe Weather Emergency Protocol](#) relating to rough sleepers would be in place until 1st March 2022, and a [Household Support Fund](#) would provide rapid short-term financial support for people unable to afford food or heating. Having declared a [Housing Crisis](#), South Hams is setting up a Community Benefit Society to support the building of affordable homes. Finally, your District Councillors visited the Viridor waste and recycling centre and, although your recycling may be comingled, the second sort is efficient, helped by the quality of the initial resident-sorted recycling. So keep on recycling!

Only one Planning application was considered (with the Parish Council recommendation in **bold**):

[3507/21/FUL](#) READVERTISEMENT (Revised plans received) Change of use of land from storage to lorry parking in association with Ivybridge Waste Transfer Station at Land at SX 633555 Ermington Road, Ivybridge **Neutral. A Travel Plan was needed to ensure unnecessary trips through residential areas to reach destinations were avoided.**

Planning guidance & climate emergency was the subject of a very forceful email from a resident in relation to developments to the east of Ivybridge. He pointed out that, despite DCC & SHDC declaring climate emergencies, a brand-new estate of more than 300 houses was being built on a greenfield site on the border of Dartmoor National Park. All the properties were built with the lowest insulation standards possible under building regulations, with gas boilers for their heating and hot water. To retrofit with noisy space demanding Air source heat pumps, which was the Governments preferred solution to domestic CO2 production, would mean foregoing part of their tiny gardens. The developments included no Solar Hot water or PV panels, no cycle path, no EV charging points, and 800 metres of hedgerow had been ripped out.

Planning guidance should require housebuilders to build for a greener world. Councillors endorsed these views, and the email was forwarded to Gary Streeter MP.

Cllr Michael Greaves – our newest Councillor – has met up with the preschool to discuss its proposed new premises. Already, about half the costs have been raised and they will be busy raising grants for the remainder – including from the Parish Council. Once completed, it will be a real asset for our community.

Christmas will, by the time you read this, be a thing of the past. The Parish Council contributed to the Christmas spirit with grants towards lighting at Bittaford Community Hall and Methodist Church and at Ugborough church, and by buying replacement solar powered lights for the trees in Ugborough Square. Thank you to Lilly and Laurie for displaying the tree lights and to Edd for arranging our wonderful Christmas tree!

Spring shoots are just around the corner, and it was good to learn of G-UP's planting proposals for Donkey Lane Playpark. The Parish Council thought it a great idea, providing the neighbours are happy and none of the plants are injurious to children!

The next Meeting will be held in the main hall at Ugborough Village Hall from 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 5th January, when we will be discussing the budget and precept for the next financial year, Community led schemes for EV Charging Points, and our playing field needs. Covid precautions will apply at the meeting.

Privacy policy – visit ugboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk

Clean up our Patch

Litter picking equipment available to local
volunteers

To borrow the equipment, contact the Parish Clerk
Tel 01364 661127 ugboroughpc@yahoo.co.uk

Ugborough Parish Council



Folk on the Moor

This long-established club now meets at The Exchange, Ivybridge on Sunday evenings.

Guest nights start at 7.45 and for January are as follows-

9th January – Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman (this is expected to be a sell-out)

23rd January- The Dartmoor Pixie Band

To book email folkonthemoor1@gmail.com

For more information- www.moorfolk.co.uk

Services at St. Peter's Church, Ugborough



We hope to continue to be able to invite you back into our church for regular services
Services start at 9.30 a.m. unless otherwise shown.

Date	Service
Sunday 2nd January	All Age Service (an informal service led by Local Worship Leaders suitable for all ages)
Sunday 9 th January	Holy Communion
Sunday 16 th January	Service of the Word (a less formal service led by Local Worship Leaders)
Sunday 23 rd January	Holy Communion
Sunday 31 st January	Joint Benefice Communion at Diptford church at 11 a.m. (No service at Ugborough)

Please note that we will follow the current Covid Regulations and we would remind you to continue to wear face coverings at all times during services.
Please use the hand gel provided and respect others' space.

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., normally every 4 weeks. the next date is **January 4th** .

And don't forget to visit your Post Office in Ugborough Church on Tuesday afternoon from 12.30-2.30 p.m. and Thursday morning from 10 a.m. – 12 noon.

New Year Waste Collection dates

Usual collection date- 31st December changed to 5th January

7th January to 11th January

14th January to 17th January

21st January to 22nd January

Week beginning 24th January – back to normal.

There is advice on South Hams website about reusing and recycling Christmas cards and wrapping paper (and other Christmas items). Please note particularly that Christmas cards with glitter, or plastic embellishments, or if they are shiny cannot be put in recycling boxes.

Also the only wrapping paper that can be collected is brown paper.

Contributions

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this 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>

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.