

# Ugborough Parish Newsletter

## September 2025



### What's on

Wednesday September	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ladies' lunch at The Ship from 12 noon Ugborough Parish Council meets at Ugborough Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.	Page 4 Page 12
Saturday September	6 <sup>th</sup>	Ugborough Sustainable Saturday at Ugborough Village Hall from 10 a.m.-12 noon	Page 2
Sunday September	7 <sup>th</sup>	Cream tea at Lower Cobberton from 2.30 p.m.	Page 2
Friday September and subsequent Fridays	12 <sup>th</sup>	Ugborough Chair Exercise class at Ugborough Village Hall from 1.30-2.30 p.m.	Page 8
Saturday September	13 <sup>th</sup>	Bingo at Bittaford Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. (an At your convenience fundraising event)	Page 4
Monday September	15 <sup>th</sup>	Ivybridge u3a meets at The Watermark, Ivybridge at 2 p.m.	Page 5
Saturday September	20 <sup>th</sup>	Ugborough Sustainable Saturday at Ugborough Village Hall from 10 a.m.-12 noon	Page 2
Sunday September	21 <sup>st</sup>	Confirmation service at Ugborough Church at 11 a.m. with Bishop James	Pages 2 and
Saturday September	27 <sup>th</sup>	North Huish Community Group's Harvest Lunch at North Huish Church from 12.30-2.30	Page 8
Sunday September	28 <sup>th</sup>	Messy Church at St. Peter's Church from 4.30-6 p.m.	Pages 2 and 16

Details of services at Bittaford Methodist Church are on Page 14

Details of services at St. Peter's Church, Ugborough are on Page 15

### **St Peter's Church – Sue Johns**

August has been a quiet month for church activities – although, as I type we are looking forward to a Greenwood Consort Concert planned for August 21<sup>st</sup>. The Refreshment Team are planning their usual finger food spread – and the music will without doubt be the exceptional standard we enjoy from the Consort and Friends. The retiring collection will be kindly donated towards the upkeep of the church. *(Reports say this was amazing.)*

The Church congregation have enjoyed two informal Songs of Praise Services during August – where members have chosen their favourite, or most memorable hymns – and have introduced them with a few words of explanation. We have certainly had an eclectic mix of music from many centuries!

September sees a Confirmation Service in the Three Rivers Mission Community on Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup>. We are delighted that this will be held in Ugborough church at 11 a.m., when Bishop James will confirm candidates from the joint Parishes. A very special time.

Looking forward now to getting back into our usual pattern of services for September, (see Services at the end of this Newsletter) and holding our next Messy Church in Church on September 28<sup>th</sup> 4:30 to 6; with songs, craft, a Bible story and Party Tea – hope to see you there!

### **Cream Tea Event**

You are welcome to Jennie's cream tea on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September from 2.30-4.30 at The Barn, Lower Cobberton, Tigley Cross (Off A385)  
£4 per head with all proceeds going to St. Peter's Church.  
Ring Jennie if you need directions on 07990507047

### **USS- Ugborough Sustainable Saturdays - Juliet Collis**

We will be back on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September having had a lovely summer break and we look forward to welcoming all our producers, volunteers and USS supporters. We will be in the village hall this month every other Saturday from 10 a.m. – 12 noon, selling a selection of delicious foods and local crafts.

The café will be serving its usual array of Westcountry teas and coffee, along with breakfast baps. The café will have the facility to accept payment by way of card or cash.

The September dates are Saturdays 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. For more information email [ugboroughhss@gmail.com](mailto:ugboroughhss@gmail.com)

### **Excess garden produce?**

Many of our local gardeners have had bumper harvests this year. USS provides an excellent outlet to sell any excess produce, keeping food local and minimising food miles. If you have any fruit or veg that you would like to sell at USS, please get in touch with us as it would be great to extend the range of produce on offer.

The Thursday Coffee Morning in St Peter's Church All are welcome!  
 Pop along for a beverage and cake between 10 and 11.45 a.m. and support our continuing weekly Post Office.  
 Hand gel is available and respect others' space.

### **Ceremonial Flying of the Flag**

**September 8<sup>th</sup>**

*Accession Day*

**September 15<sup>th</sup>**

*Birthday of Henry (Harry), the Duke of Sussex*



### **Ugborough Dramatic Society- Sue Johns**

Yes – the rumours are TRUE! UDS will be performing a Pantomime in 2026 : 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> February under the Direction of Sharon Hughes – with all your favourite Cast Members!

I will be assisting with the musical items – and I'm looking for Young Chorus Members.

They must be able to commit to regular rehearsals, weekly from around Oct/Nov – this will initially be an early evening slot. Then, as we integrate into the whole performance, the rehearsals will be lengthier and later. You will also need to be available for some specific times during the Weekends immediately before the Performances – and on Performance nights 6.30 to 10 p.m.

It is necessarily a commitment , and probably not for younger children, but, as those who have been involved before know, it is an **amazing** experience, great fun and in our own community

If you're interested do let me know – and we'll have a chat.

07889 737967

### **Erme Valley RDA- Peggy Douglas 07882 286421**

Well – the horses may have had a well earned break in August – but a Team of intrepid volunteers staffing various Working Parties have spent many hours completing all the tidying/sorting/improvements type jobs that are inevitable with a thriving Group like ours.

I can't thank enough ALL who have helped in any way.

Of note is the Office Revamp – where the clever use of shelving, and installation of a useful work surface has transformed the small space into a useful and efficient workspace. Janice is thrilled!

Painting jump poles has been ongoing as has the smartening up of all our equipment. Rugs have been sorted and stored effectively, and also the hay barn and storage for the Yard equipment.

It's been hard work – but rewarding!

Grateful thanks to Rattery Fair and to Chris Honour Racing for supporting the Group  
 We recommence Riding and Educational Activities on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Ladies' Lunch** *Pat Stephens*

The date for the next lunch is Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at The Ship, Ugborough for 12 noon.

Contact Pat Stephens 07704 113837 to book.

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

Charity Number 1043499 –

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

Contact: [admin@ugboroughandbittafordpre-school.org.uk](mailto:admin@ugboroughandbittafordpre-school.org.uk)

Contact: 07763 215 455

Ugborough and Bittaford After School Club, Breakfast Club and Preschool (charity number 1043499) that operates in Ugborough Village Hall Monday to Friday 0800-1800 in term time needs a new general manager as soon as possible.

For further details and to express an interest please email [<committee@ugboroughandbittafordpre-school.org.uk>](mailto:committee@ugboroughandbittafordpre-school.org.uk) or call the Chair on 07595 832847

### **G-UP**

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

<https://www.ugborough.com/g-up>

### **At Your Convenience**

While we continue with the background negotiations, we've had an eventful summer fundraising for the Bittaford and Ugborough Toilet Reopening Project.

We've organized a raffle at Ugfest (with a prize kindly donated by Marchand Petit), made 120 pizzas during Fair Week, hosted games at the fair, and even had a toilet-themed quiz at the Horse and Groom (thanks to Olly and the team).

Our current funds are approaching £5,000, which will cover initial costs like legal fees and surveys. However, we still need to raise more in order to develop both sites into fully compliant and functional buildings. Our goal is to provide well-designed, accessible toilets while also making the most of the available space.

We have a Bingo night on September 13<sup>th</sup> at Bittaford Village Hall (Eyes Down 7:30) and we're also benefiting from the South Hams Lottery, SeaMoor Lotto. For every £1 ticket purchased, we receive 50% of the proceeds, and ticket holders have a chance to win great prizes as well as weekly bonuses. You can check it out here: <https://www.seamoorlotto.co.uk/support/ugborough-parish-at-your-convenience>



Thank you all for supporting this important project! If anyone has skills they can offer, especially fundraising advice, we'd be more than happy to hear from you. Contact [atyourconveniencecec@gmail.com](mailto:atyourconveniencecec@gmail.com) or call 07811 332129

**Historical Nugget– Gareth ‘Taff’ Jones**

Historical Nugget: 18<sup>th</sup> September 1948 – Background to the Berlin Airlift: At the end of World War II, American planners acknowledged that they would require an economically strong Germany to help with the rebuilding of the West European economy. To help bring the about resurgence of the German economy the American and British occupation zones were combined on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1947, the French zone joined a little while later, on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1947.

Between 24<sup>th</sup> June 1948 and 12<sup>th</sup> May 1949 the Soviet Union blocked all western transport links through the GDR (German Democratic Republic “East Germany”) to West Berlin. The Soviets offered to end the blockade if the Western Allies withdrew the newly introduced Deutsche Mark in the FDR (Federal German Republic "West Germany"). This was the first serious international crisis since the end of World War II with Stalin attempting to blackmail the Western Allies from introducing the currency reforms in their sectors (West Germany); bartering or cigarettes were the de-facto currency as the Reichsmark (used throughout Germany) remained unstable. Stalin’s goal was to undermine the British position in their occupation zone expecting the Americans to eventually withdraw within a year or two thereby opening the way for a united Germany under communist rule.

Over the twenty-four hour period of 18<sup>th</sup> September, the RAF and USAAF made 895 flights, flying through rain and fog, into Tempelhof Airport. Over 7000 tons of supplies (this included 5572 tons of coal) were delivered during the day. The total support for West Berlin during the Airlift period is staggering: The USAAF delivered 1,783,573 tons of supplies (76.4% of the total) and the RAF 541,937 tons of supplies (23.3%), the French also conducted flights but only to supply their garrison. Total supplies delivered by the Airlift was 2,334,374 tons, two thirds of which was coal. A grand total of 278,228 flights were made, and the USAAF flew 92,000,000 miles, at the height of the Airlift a plane was landing in West Berlin every thirty seconds.

**Ivybridge u3a - Graham Meardon**

The next meeting is on 15<sup>th</sup> Sept at The Watermark at 2 p.m.

Jacqui Felix-Mitchell is our speaker and her subject is-

From PR Professional to Garden Designer- a life of passion

This talk looks at Jacqui’s journey and she will talk about her work in Publishing, Marketing, communications and Public Relations. Then she will continue to her growing passion for all things garden design and what happened next.

## **Beryl's Bookworms –**

July's book, 'There are Rivers in the Sky' by Elif Shafak, really made us all think and divide opinions!

2 members of the group gave it an unusual 5/5 WOW!

Out of 39,000 Goodread reviews only 800 scored it a low 1 or 2 stars WOW!



So what gave it the WOW factor for the majority:

Shafak said in an interview that she liked to intensely research for herself not the book and this is exactly what the 'lovers' thought she'd done in her portrayal of the 3 main characters, in 3 different time and places:

In Victorian times we met Arthur Smyth, an urchin, who saw a mythical creature being taken into the British museum and with his unusual vast intellect and memory he was able to pursue his fascination and eventually travel to Nineveh to make groundbreaking discoveries of ancient writing.

In 2018 we met Zaleekah, a hydrologist, newly divorced and moving into a houseboat on the Thames.

In 2014 we met Narin a Yazidi girl in Iraq, fleeing ISIS with her grandmother.

Those that enjoyed/loved the book stated a real connection to each protagonist, evoking high emotion and deep feelings for each person and their back stories.

So why didn't everyone feel this:

The less favourable Goodread and Bookworm reviewers perceived Shafak's attempt to link a single raindrop to each story as tenuous and contrived and the analogies about water overused.

They felt Shafak had tried to cover so much time and history that it was all too watered down, pardon the pun!

Although everyone was appalled by the massacre of the Yazidi's from their own knowledge, they even expressed being largely untouched by this in Shafak's writing.

Anyway, thankfully following a quite heavy discussion about certain topics and divided opinion on the enjoyment of the book, in came Val's amazing chocolate cake, so we all settled down!

Overall it was a score of nearly 4/5 from the Bookworms.

August it was summer party time! (*Huge thanks to Sue W for hosting.*) 🥰

Our September book is 'You are Here' by David Nicholls



## Dementia Friendly Parishes *around the Yealm*

Supporting people with dementia and their families in Wembury, Yealmpton, Brixton, Holbeton, Newton & Noss with home visits, advice, information and a variety of groups (**Groups open to everyone from any area**): *(See the Parish Clerk's item on page 12)*

**Last Monday in month- FREE Monday Club**, 10.30am -12.30, **Yealmpton Methodist Church**. Currently partnering with “**Life on the Edge**” project (creative, nature-focussed activities).

**Every Tuesday- Gentle Exercise Classes**, 10-11am, 11.15am-12:15pm, **Yealmpton Methodist Church** (£6).

**Every Wednesday- FREE Walking Group**, meets 10.30am, Barton Close car park, Wembury for a gentle walk in various locations.

**Every Thursday- Listen and Laugh** to familiar stories and poetry, 10.30-12.00pm, **Parish Rooms, Yealmpton** (£3).

**1st Friday in month- FREE Carers Catch up-** Carers support group, 2-3.30pm, **Yealmpton Methodist Church**.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in month- FREE Coffee and Chat**, 2-3:30pm, **Rose & Crown, Yealmpton**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in Month –Singing along** 2.-3.30 pm, **Yealmpton Methodist Church**.(£4).

For more information, call Claire: 07450206312, E: [info@dementiayealm.org](mailto:info@dementiayealm.org), or <https://www.dementiayealm.org/>

***“We can’t change the person living with dementia, but we can change the experience they have in their community”.***



## Four Rivers Dementia Alliance

**Four Rivers Dementia Alliance (4RDA)** developed from Dementia Friendly Parishes and is comprised of 20 rural and town parish councils and other organisations working to build inclusive dementia friendly communities. 4RDA offers FREE support via delivering dementia awareness sessions, dementia friendly building assessments on community building, advice etc

For more information, contact Claire: 07349160447, E: [development@4riversdementia.org.uk](mailto:development@4riversdementia.org.uk) or <https://www.4riversdementia.org.uk/>

### **Ugborough Chair Exercise Class** -Peter and Ann Povey

The Class will recommence after the Summer Holidays on **Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> September**. As usual, we will meet on Friday afternoons in Ugborough Village Hall from 1.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. under the direction of our specialist physiotherapists, Michelle and Sine (a Hebridean Gaelic name, pronounced Sheena), for gentle exercise to help us in daily living. We are a small friendly group, and we are very happy to welcome new members of any age to the Class. We contribute £5 towards the costs of each meeting of the class. Accompanying Carers are not expected to contribute. If you think you need to exercise more, but are not sure how, why not come to one of our Class sessions and see what we accomplish in our congenial and joyous group.

We follow the School Terms, so will have a break at Half Term, returning thereafter to meet every Friday until Christmas. We particularly thank County Councillor Dan Thomas for again supporting us this year in our successful bid for a grant to Devon County Council's Locality Budget scheme. It is heartening to have such support from our elected County Council representative in the furtherance of the health and wellbeing of our Parish residents.

September dates: Fridays 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. Half Term: No Class Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October.

Enquiries: Tel: 01752 691 654

Email: [povey.ann@googlemail.com](mailto:povey.ann@googlemail.com)

**The North Huish Community Group** will be holding a Harvest Lunch, consisting of a Ploughman's with Dessert (gluten-free option available), and a soft drink on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September from 12.30 - 2.30 p.m. at North Huish Church. The cost is £8. Everybody welcome. Donations of non-perishable items for the local food bank will be gratefully accepted.

### **Exhibition: Seeds of Change: Farming in Devon in the 1920s**

Open to the public, Free entry.

Dates: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026. Open Wednesday to Sunday, 10.30am to 4pm.

Location: Devon Rural Archive, Shilstone House, Modbury, PL21 0TW

The Devon Rural Archive (DRA) at Shilstone has put up a new exhibition, 'Seeds of Change: Farming in Devon in the 1920s', part of the wider Devon in the 1920s festival taking place across the county. The exhibition features unique photographs and documents from the DRA collection on the themes of livestock, smallholdings, the lives of women, Seale-Hayne agricultural college, and the lasting impact of the First World War. The displays are based on research carried out by the DRA's dedicated team of volunteers.

[www.devonruralarchive.com](http://www.devonruralarchive.com)

01548 830832



### **Six go Beaver Watching-** *Graham Gilbert*

A long time ago there were beavers. Lots of them. They ranged from China in the east to Britain in the west, and from the Mediterranean to south of the Arctic Circle. They also existed in huge numbers in North America.

They were great ecosystem engineers. Their endeavours created habitats for a wide range of species: insects, fish, amphibians, mammals, and birds. They made large areas of wetlands, vital havens for wildlife in times of drought and wildfires.

Then along came Man. Over time he discovered that beaver fur made, amongst other things, warm hats with water repellent properties. They were also a good source of meat. As they could swim, the Catholic Church categorised them as fish, so they could be eaten at times when meat-eating was forbidden.

But the most prized product of the beaver came from its two scent glands, a substance called castoreum, which had (variable) medicinal properties. Beavers are vegetarians. They don't, as is still popularly believed, eat fish. Willow is one of their favourite foods, and willow bark contains salicylic acid, from which aspirin is derived. So provided a beaver eats a good quantity of willow, the castoreum it produces can be a useful medicine. However, it's less efficacious if little or no willow has been consumed.

Thus, beavers were hunted remorselessly until by the 19<sup>th</sup> century they were extinct in Britain and most European countries.

But we now, belatedly, realise what we've lost. Not just the beavers but the habitats they engineered. Their work slows down the flow of water, helping to reduce flooding. It also helps to purify the water, getting rid of toxins. And it provides homes for a myriad of insects and birds, all species that are in rapid decline in the UK.

So a movement began to try and reintroduce beavers to our landscape, and one of the main movers is a larger-than-life character called Derek Gow. Derek is a Scot who bought a 400 acre farm in Devon, not far from Lifton (remember Thomasin Burch? She from Ugborough workhouse who absconded to Lifton in the 1800s). The farm is now known as Rewilding Coombeshead, and hosts international seminars and workshops on all things rewilding. Derek breeds not only Eurasian beavers, but white storks, turtle doves, lynx, wildcats, harvest mice, and water voles of which over 25000 have, so far, been released back into the wild. He also has three buffalo.

One Friday evening in July, six Ugborians went on a beaver watch, led by Coombeshead's ecologist, Taylor Davies. During our three hours we heard and saw the rare turtle doves happily cooing in the trees, and their cousins breeding in an enormous aviary. Next, in another enclosure we saw wildcats, of which there are sixty in various partner locations awaiting introduction to carefully selected habitats.

Then, we were introduced to three hand-reared, and thus very friendly, buffalo whose job it is to mimic the action of ancient aurochs by unlevelling some of the fields.

Finally, we came to the first beaver pond. No sign of the beavers as they had had enough of the man-made pond and had gone off to create their own. The fourteen of us in our group then set up chairs on a fairly level patch of ground in front of the new pond and lodge and quietly awaited the stars of the show. It wasn't long before they emerged swimming effortlessly through the water. One of their kits (young) also put in an appearance.

Later, back at the first pond, as the sunset sky complimented the stands of purple loosestrife, and male marsh frogs croaked loudly to attract a mate, we had a good view of another beaver gliding serenely through the water.

If you'd like to learn more about these amazing rodents, I recommend reading "Bringing Back the Beavers" by Derek Gow, published by Chelsea Green, ISBN 978-1-64502-123-0. You can order it from The Ivybridge Bookshop. And have a look at <https://rewildingcoombeshead.co.uk> to discover more about their work.

Finally, on YouTube, check out "Canadian Cameo: Grey Owl's Little Brother", a black and white film shot in Canada in 1932 all about a supposedly native American (who, it transpired, was actually Archie Belaney from Hastings!) who turned from being a trapper to a dedicated beaver conservationist. Excellent footage of beavers at work.

### **Ugborough Parish Council**

Clerk: Sally Smale Email: [parishclerk@ugboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@ugboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Website: <https://ugboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk> - where you can view the Newsletter to use the weblinks

#### **Ugborough Parish Council News from our July and August Meetings.**

No members of the public attended our July meeting and one person attended the August meeting

#### **Matters raised by the Public and Arising from previous meetings:**

1. We had received enquiries about establishing 20mph zones on the B3123 and the A3121 near Ludbrook and in the village itself. Cllr Thomas explained that Devon County Council do not support the installation of 20mph zones on A and B roads where various engineering and infrastructure work would need to be done to physically restrict speeding. He advised us that if we wished to proceed with any 20mph zones we needed to work with the community to establish if there is a majority vote and then to build the funding into our precept demand. There is no funding available from DCC. The process can cost between £20,000 and £45,000 depending

on the size of the zone. Ugborough village is being used as an example of good practice where the process was followed and financing built into our budgeting and precept demands process over a period of years. We have agreed that we are unable at present to support another project in the parish.

2. The bulk of the work to clear the overgrown hedges and footway on the approach to the train station in Ivybridge has now been done with further maintenance work scheduled later in the year.

3. The maintenance of the overgrown bush restricting visibility for drivers on Shute Lane will be contracted out by DCC but we have no time-scale as yet. Meanwhile some of it has been cut back by a local business which is much appreciated

4. We are having a few problems with loose shelves in the new bookcase in the bus-shelter and monitoring the situation.

5. Enforcement of 20mph speed limit in Ugborough village – this problem has been referred to the traffic speed enforcement team. Our volunteer speedwatch group will do a monitoring session in the village.

**The reports from Devon County Councillors Dan Thomas and Vic Abbott can be read in full on our website.**

Summary:

Finance Response to issues raised by UPC and residents

Highways Children and Young People

Local Government Review South West Peninsula Mayoral Strategic Authority (MSA)

Concerns about plans to replace paid co-responders

Safety Warning Cllr Thomas has confirmed that he supports the introduction of time-restricted parking in Wrangaton rather than resident parking permits which had been requested. This is more likely to be accepted by DCC and will prevent the long-term parking that is currently restricting parking for home-owners in the area.

**The reports from South Hams District Councillors Alison DeWynter and Victor Abbott can be seen on our website.**

Summary:

Local Government Review Digital Switchover

Parking Fine Scam Fly Tipping Advice

South Hams Rally for Nature Right to work and study in Europe Petition

Moves at Ivybridge Railway Station Elections – annual canvass of residents

More support for Care Leavers and vulnerable groups

Help shape Dartmoor National Park consultation

Postal vote renewal South Hams Dementia Forum

Hope Wood Visual Arts Survey

**Highways, Parish Paths and Transport**

1. We are very pleased that the work to resurface Donkey Lane is now complete. We are continuing to monitor the condition of the wall bordering the path.

2. The latest speedwatch report is now available on our website.

Highlights for the period from 1st January and 11th July 2025:

Current Volunteers = 7 Sessions this period = 26

Total Vehicles exceeding limit = 116 DVLA Valid vehicles (traceable number plates) = 95  
Maximum Speed recorded in 30 limit = 49mph(+63%)

### **Dementia Awareness**

We have agreed to work towards making Ugborough a Dementia-friendly parish and Cllrs Hart and Wells are putting together a plan of action. If you have any suggestions or would like to be involved in this project please do come along to our next meeting or send our clerk an email expressing your interest.

### **Local Government Review**

Plymouth City Council continues to race ahead with its proposal to draw 13 South Hams Parishes into its governance. South Hams District Council are also now consulting on their proposal and Devon County Council will soon be releasing their preferred option. It appears from discussion and meetings with the other 13 parishes and feedback from parishioners to date that our opposition to Plymouth's proposal is currently shared by the majority. We would welcome comments any of you have about any of the proposals (Please email our clerk) We will be consulting with you and considering this matter further when all the options are on the table.

SHDC are now undertaking a series of consultation events. We hope they will be present at one of our Sustainable Saturdays to hear your views but would encourage you to go along to either Ermington on 24<sup>th</sup> September or Ivybridge on 17<sup>th</sup> September. You do need to go online and book: [www.southhams.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation-engagement-events](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation-engagement-events)

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025, 7.30 p.m. in Ugborough Village Hall

*Privacy policy – visit [ugboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://ugboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk)*

*Litter picking equipment is available to local volunteers. To borrow, please contact the Parish Clerk Tel 07814849131 [parishclerk@ugboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@ugboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk)*

### **The windows of Ugborough Church- Peter Povey**

Most of the stained-glass windows of St. Peter's Church were crafted in the early 1860s by the prominent London glass makers James Powell & Sons, Whitefriars Glass Works, and placed in the Church during the gothic revival restoration of the Church by Edward Ashworth of Exeter, the West Country's leading ecclesiastical architect of the period. The driving force for the restoration was the Vicar, the Reverend John May MA. May was from a well-to-do Surrey family and attended Eton College. He was one of a group of pupils who led a riot in 1818 against the Head Master for his excessive beating of pupils and, with the other ringleaders, was expelled from the College. Ordinarily this would have ruined his chances of going to university. However, he entered Exeter College, Oxford, and graduated at the University in 1825, proceeding to ordination by the Bishop of Norwich. In 1845 he became Vicar of Ugborough, retiring to Earley, Berkshire in 1869, and dying there in 1879. He was succeeded as Vicar by his son-in-law, the Reverend John Frederick Fixsen MA.

John May, his family and friends paid for the windows, and May also donated the white marble font, now decommissioned and placed in the South Chapel of the

Church. Powell & Sons employed well-known artists such as Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Edward Burne-Jones, Ford Madox Brown and William De Morgan for some of their commissions, but the Ugborough windows are standard Powell designs, with the pictorial elements probably created by in-house artists.

The window requiring urgent repair, the cost of which the Fair Committee is making a contribution, is a two panel standard Powell decorative pattern, with a small upper figurative window of the *Agnus Dei*, the Lamb of God, holding a staff with a banner, or vexilla, of the Cross, a universal symbol of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the Scriptural quotation *Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world* (John 1.29). Interestingly the window assembler has inserted the glass with the word *taketh* upside down. The two decorative panels bear symbols of the Christian Faith – the Cross; the Fleur-de-Lys (a symbol of The Holy Trinity); and the Vine (a symbol of Christ, the Church and the Eucharist – *I am the True Vine* John 15.1, and *I am the Vine and you are the Branches* John 15.5). The lower aspect of the two panels read *To the Glory of God. The Gift of the Vicar 1863*.

Powell & Sons' stained-glass windows are to be found in cathedrals, churches and chapels all over the English-speaking world. There are over 90 churches with Powell windows in Devon alone. The company, later better known for domestic decorative glassware under the trademark *Whitefriars*, ceased production in 1980, and the trademark is now owned by Caithness Glass.

WPP May 2025. Modified June 2025

### **Addendum**

In my short article on the stained-glass in Ugborough Church, originally written in May for the Churchwardens, I stated that the Reverend John Frederick Fixsen was the Reverend John May's son-in-law. I had always thought that, when he was about to retire, John May had sought Ugborough Vicarage for John Fixsen from the Worshipful Company of Grocers of the City of London, Patron of the living. That is to say "he put in a good word for him". He was indeed May's son-in-law, but as I have found out through more recent on-line searches, he did not enjoy that relationship until nine years after he became Vicar of Ugborough. He was a widower when he arrived in Ugborough. My presumption was incorrect.

After Cambridge and ordination in 1853, John Fixsen was curate at Marcham in Berkshire, then at Henley-on-Thames. Whilst at Henley he married Annette Brakspear, daughter of William Henry Brakspear, a well-respected Brewer of that town. Thereafter, he was appointed Perpetual Curate of Merton in Surrey. Annette Fixsen died there in 1868 and is buried in St. Mary's Churchyard.

In 1869 John Fixsen came to Ugborough as Vicar. He married Alice Kitson May, John May's youngest daughter, in Ugborough Church nine years later in 1878, the year before May's death. Alice was 24 years younger than her husband. She was born in Ugborough Vicarage (now Ugborough House) in Parsonage Lane. So, on marriage, she moved back as Vicar's wife to the house where she was born, and which was her childhood home. John and Alice Fixsen had seven children. The two eldest, a son and a daughter, were born in the Vicarage.

The family moved in 1885 when Fixsen became Vicar of Bucknell with Buckden in Shropshire, near the Welsh Border. He served there for 35 years until his death aged 84 years. The eldest son, John Frederick Christopher Fixsen was ordained in the Diocese of Peterborough, and was curate of Kettering from 1903 to 1907. He then became his father's curate in Bucknell, supporting his father in his old age. He became a Church Missionary Society chaplain in East Africa. When the First World War started, along with other British residents of the region, including several clergy, he was interned as a German prisoner-of-war in a camp in Tabora, German East Africa (now in Tanzania), where the camp conditions were horrific, the guards brutal, and infectious diseases rife. He died there in captivity in 1916. As a civilian prisoner of war, and not in military service, I suppose that, although he was born in Ugborough, his name could not appear on the Ugborough War Memorial. Nonetheless, I think his life, and his death in the First World War should be recorded in Ugborough, the Parish of his birth, as it is on-line through the Imperial War Museum's "Lives of the First World War" (<https://livesofthefirstworldwar.iwm.org.uk/lifestory/7688896>).

The Brakspear Brewery still flourishes in Henley as a family brewery, with a chain of public houses, mainly in Southeast England.

WPP June 2025

**Bittaford Methodist Chapel- Chris Phillips 07899934743**

All services start at 11 a.m.

September 7th                      Rev David Youngs

September 14th                    Gillian Higgins

September 21st                    Mike Cade

September 28th                    Mike Cade

**How to restore the Erme**

Ugborough parish's two largest streams, The Bowcombe Brook and the Lud Brook, find their way into the River Erme.

The Erme is one of the South Hams' lesser known and most beautiful rivers, so you can be forgiven for thinking why does it need restoring? One of the most recent and stark reminders of why our local river needs help is that water quality at Coastguards Beach (in the Erme estuary) was classified as 'Poor' by the Environment Agency (EA) last November. This was after only one season of the EA's regular testing, which became mandatory when Wild About The Erme River (WATER) successfully campaigned for Coastguards Beach to be officially designated as Bathing Water. Only two Bathing Waters in the whole of Devon had a 'Poor' classification in 2024 and Coastguards was one of them.

Pollution coming into the estuary from upstream is the cause, and the Environment Agency is now actively investigating the nature and sources of that pollution as they are required to do by law.

WATER (Wild About The Erme River) is a local environmental charity focused on restoring water quality and habitat from the Erme's source on Dartmoor to where it's estuary meets the sea. It is staffed entirely by volunteers and is funded only by donations, membership and grants.

The charity has multiple workstreams that cover the ever-changing nature of the river's catchment as the Erme makes its 24km journey from source to sea. Rain enters the river via its many tributaries and feeder streams by flowing over, or percolating through, the surrounding landscape. So what happens on the land directly affects the water quality in the river.

Pollution can arise from multiple sources such as sewage overflows, road and field run-off, bank erosion, livestock access and human activity.

Loss of habitat and biodiversity in the water and along its corridor are all under threat when the delicately-balanced ecosystem is disrupted. Restoring such a large and complex environment requires careful planning.

A Catchment Action Plan is currently being developed by WATER, supported by the Environment Agency and the Rivers Restoration Centre, the acknowledged experts in this field, who have guided WATER's team in a series of online workshops.

WATER's Catchment Action Plan (CAP) team includes volunteers who are also highly qualified in specialist environmental sciences, GIS, landscape architecture, farm and land management. That is why they are uniquely equipped to undertake a rivers restoration project more typically undertaken by expensive specialist consultants. Unsurprisingly, government funding for such plans on smaller rivers is sparse.

Rivers can be restored, but it requires a carefully planned holistic approach, so that each action builds on the next as part of a wider process of continual, interconnected and prioritised improvement. This can only be done at a catchment-wide scale.

### **Services at St Peter's Church, Ugborough**

Services start at 9.30 a.m. unless otherwise shown.

We have a variety of services, traditional and informal, so please check below to see what is available.

Date	Service
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	All Age Worship
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September</b>	<b>Mission Community Confirmation Service with Bishop James at 11 a.m.</b>
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Holy Communion Messy Church from 4.30-6 p.m.

Hand gel is available and please respect others' space.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September from 4.30- 6 p.m.  
Stories, craft activities, songs, food and fun  
at  
St Peter's Church, Ugborough,  
All Ages welcome.  
Children to be accompanied by an adult



The Three Rivers Mission Community covers the parishes of Diptford with North Huish, Ermington, Halwell, Harbertonford, Moreleigh, and Ugborough. You can find out about everything that's going on across all the parishes at its website, [www.3rivers.org.uk](http://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](mailto:parish_sayle@me.com).

#### **Village services.**

The Post Office continues its service at Ugborough Church on Thursday mornings and coffee and cake will be available from 10 – 11.45 a.m. Do pop in for a chat. Look out for notices in the church porch and in The Bugle for news of the Post Office service.

#### **Contributions**

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this Newsletter and to Colourbridge in Ivybridge for printing them so efficiently.

Special thanks to the team – Anne and Tom Holway for organising the delivery to the distributors, and the distributors for making sure that your copy is delivered to you. Contributions should be sent by e mail to Mrs. Norma Roe, The Editor, Ugborough Parish Newsletter at [normaroe9@gmail.com](mailto:normaroe9@gmail.com)

The deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> of the month please. Thank you for keeping to this.  
Your Newsletter is available online at the Parish Council website-  
<https://ugboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk>  
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.*