



Ugborough Parish Newsletter

February 2021

What's on

Wednesday February	3 rd	Ugborough Parish Council meets via zoom	Pages 10/11
Saturday February	6 th	Cocktails and canapes evening via zoom (prior bookings only)	Page 3
Sunday February	7 th	Messy Church via zoom from 4.30-5.15 p.m.	Page 4
15 th -19 th February Half Term			

Information about services at Bittaford Methodist Church is on Page 11

Information about services at St. Peter's Church, Ugborough is on Page 11

Ugborough Support -Sue Johns

As Lockdown 3 progresses please remember that there are volunteers that are able to assist any who are self-isolating, vulnerable or shielding with shopping, prescriptions etc. and lifts to vaccination centres or just need a chat.... Just let you're your named volunteer know – or contact-
Me Sue Johns 07889737967 suejohnsdunwellfarm@gmail.com
Or Katie Lloyd 07919 028839 katiejsmart@googlemail.com

We were delighted to recognise with culinary treats, the supreme effort that the teachers and staff of Ugborough School and Preschool have shown this term in the roll out of the curriculum to local children both in school and to those who are staying at home.

We were so pleased to be able to deliver boxes of Heroes to the hard-working NHS and social care workers in our Ugborough Community, at the end of January. We know the difficult time they are experiencing at the moment and appreciate their commitment and the toll it takes on them and their families. We are proud of you all!

Thanks to Annie Douglas who designed and painted the fantastic Thank You cards that accompanied the Treats. 🍪

The Post Office continues on a Thursday morning in St Peter's Church 10 – 12.

To all in the UGBOROUGH SUPPORT GROUP'

Imagine our surprise when just before Christmas we had a visit from Philomena and Sharon (dressed as Santa) who gave us a fulsome cheery chorus of 'We wish you a Merry Christmas', and to deliver some lovely flowers and wonderful Christmas goodies, from the UGBOROUGH SUPPORT GROUP. What a kind, thoughtful thing to do. So heart-warming, and much appreciated.

So 'Many Thanks' to each and every one of you in the group, for all your kindness in caring for us older and less able ones. Can only hope that one day, when you too are getting on a bit 'like ourselves,' you'll also have good people around to be just as kind and caring to yourselves.

Must just add, the choice of Christmas goodies in the sack were wonderful. - totally inspired - and definitely cheered us up. Also many thanks for the beautiful table decoration that was delivered earlier that week, so pretty and so expertly created.

Please all take care and stay safe.
Wishing you all the best, *Ann & Tony Smith.*

Vernon Tuck- Sue Johns

It is with deep regret that I write to let everyone know that Vernon Tuck passed away on 9th January at Windward Residential home, where he had lived for that last few years.

Born and bred in Ugborough he lived at Manor Cottage until it was condemned – moving eventually to Wynryk on Ware Hill, where he lived until recently.

Vernon learnt to play the piano at the tender age of 5 with his Auntie Floss in Plymouth – and then continued studying the organ with Miss Cummings from Yealmpton.

Joining the 32 strong choir at the age of 8, under the watchful eye of organist and choirmaster Mr. Beer, (headteacher of Ugborough School,) Vernon had an exceptional treble voice and was often chosen to sing solos.

Vernon's keyboard performance debut was at Ugborough's Gospel Hall where he performed Handel's Largo on the harmonium at 10 years of age.

Vernon was asked to play for Choir Practices when he was twelve – and began playing at Evensong at 16, he then quickly progressed to the official position of St Peter's Honorary Church Organist.

Conscription at the age of 18 interrupted Vernon's plans to train as a teacher. During this time, the army allowed Vernon to return to Ugborough every weekend to play at Services. On his demob. at 20, Vernon returned to take up a temporary career nursing at Moorhaven, where he stayed for 24 years! A Sunday routine was then established when Vernon played the organ for Moorhaven chapel services at 9.30 and 2.00; then at St Peter's at 11.00 and 6.00 – walking to each service.

Vernon has served under 6 vicars before the current Mission Community Team.

In addition, Vernon has played at many local churches – mostly for funerals, from Elburton to Plympton – and from Cornwood to Brooking.

We celebrated his 60th Jubilee of playing in St Peter's in 2014.

Vernon modestly described his skill as his way of worshipping and glorifying God.

Part of the ever dwindling 'old Ugborough' Vernon always had a wealth of stories about a local community long gone.

I visited him just before Christmas and found him jovial and happy – making me laugh in his inimitable style, with his tales of Nursing Home life. He was well looked after at Windward – and had a great fondness for many of the staff.

It's the end of an era ... and we shall miss him.

Ceremonial flying of the Flag.

February 6th

Accession Day of Queen Elizabeth II



February 19th

Birthday of the Duke of York

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

Firstly, welcome back and a very Happy New Year to you all.

We trust that you have all had a well-deserved break over the festive period and are raring to go in the spring term!

We are still following the governments guidelines and regulations and be able to remain open to all children, just not those of essential workers. Breakfast and after school club is only open to children of essential workers. Those not eligible please stay safe and we shall see you very soon.

The staff and the committee would like to thank all of those for your kindness and support in the Christmas raffle, with your help we were able to raise a whopping £426.00. as a charity run pre-school we rely on such humanity and we are ecstatic with the grand total. Also, a huge thank you to those that donated raffle prizes, as without your donations the raffle wouldn't have been possible.

Over the last few weeks, the children have still been able to go outside, although cold, the children have had great fun wrapped up in their hats, scarves and gloves. They have relished in role play, nursey rhymes and games and the outdoor toys, which they get so much joy from. They have also enjoyed walking around and looking at your wonderful Christmas lights. Having spent plenty of time outdoors the children have also been busy indoors, aside the usually colouring, play-doh and painting, the children have been cooking! The children made quesadillas with ham and cheese and enjoyed watching the process of cooking and melting cheese. They also made fruit salads and stars were rewarded for children willing to try new tastes. It was great to see how many children were willing to try and how many of them enjoyed it.

A special mention to Rich Jones for his fantastic skills and craftsmanship. Rich donated a mud kitchen to the pre-school and the children have enjoyed playing with it in the playground and they are looking forward to taking it into forest school.

The Preschool are 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. The children have welcomed a few new faces to the pre-school and have enjoyed showing them around, but there is space for more.

Cocktails and Canapes evening (in aid of St. Peter's Church, Ugborough)

The deadline for joining this innovative and exciting event on Saturday 6th February has now passed. If you would like any further information, please contact Sharon Hughes on 07925607348.



Three Rivers Mission Community- St. Peter's Church

We look forward to welcoming you to the online service on Sunday 7th February from 4.30-5.15 p.m.

Please email parish_sayle@me.com or telephone 01548 821199 for the log in details.

The Beacon Federation - Executive Headteacher - Mrs. Karen Dixon

Ugborough Primary School.

Zoom Lessons

We have been amazed how well the children have adapted to online learning, with the vast majority accessing lessons very successfully –well done to them, and thank you to parents and carers for supporting and enabling this.

Half term is from 15th-19th February.



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

Faith Matthews.

Our first Wildlife and Biodiversity meeting involved a rich discussion via zoom around two key ideas proposed by our Steering Group. The first is to develop and maintain areas of Native Wildflowers in the Parish. We are investigating where

would lend itself most ably to this...The idea would be to aim for a September sowing, giving plenty of time for us to prepare and enabling (Covid depending) for us to come to together, to learn about the processes involved and replicate the process at home (or on other appropriate public areas). It would be wonderful to create additional habitats for our insects and butterflies, many of which are in steep decline.

The second idea is to renovate the planting area in the Ugborough Children's play park. We'd aim to use pollinator plants and a scheme that supports child interaction and promotes wildlife. New playpark equipment is due this spring – so once this is 'in' we will review the site and get coordinating.

We feel that both ideas have legs ... A Biodiversity map of the Parish? Some 'citizen science' to establish what impact these changes have? Shared learning about planting processes that will benefit our micro-Parish residents...There are many positive faces these projects could have. If you have ideas, you'd like to contribute please drop us a line! greenerugp@gmail.com

Crisp packet recycling – due to the drop off system at Hillhead being abused, combined with the lockdown context, we are having to **suspend this collection point.** For all you crisp lovers, fret not! Instead we ask that you save your packets **AT HOME** in the required format (instructions will be circulated), and we will have a crisp packet *amnesty collection day* once circumstances allow. Collecting crisp packets has a really positive impact, as it not only saves waste from the incinerator, but we receive actual money for all packets collected which goes towards green initiatives in Ugborough Primary School.

Greener Ugborough Parish

DENTAL PRODUCT RECYCLING



**REDUCE.
REUSE.
RECYCLE.**

What can be recycled? ****ALL BRANDS****

- Electric toothbrush heads and covers
- Electric flosser nozzles
- Flossing sticks and interdental brushes
- Dental floss containers

Waste that is NOT accepted:

- Battery operated toothbrushes
- Electric toothbrush handles
- Manual toothbrushes
- Toothpaste tubes and caps or cardboard packaging
- Dental floss

COLLECTION POINTS AT:

FRONT GATE, VIRGINIA LODGE, PARK COTTAGES,
UGBOROUGH

FRONT GARDEN, 7 BITTAFORD TERRACE, BITTAFORD

For more eco-friendly tips, visit www.ugborough.com

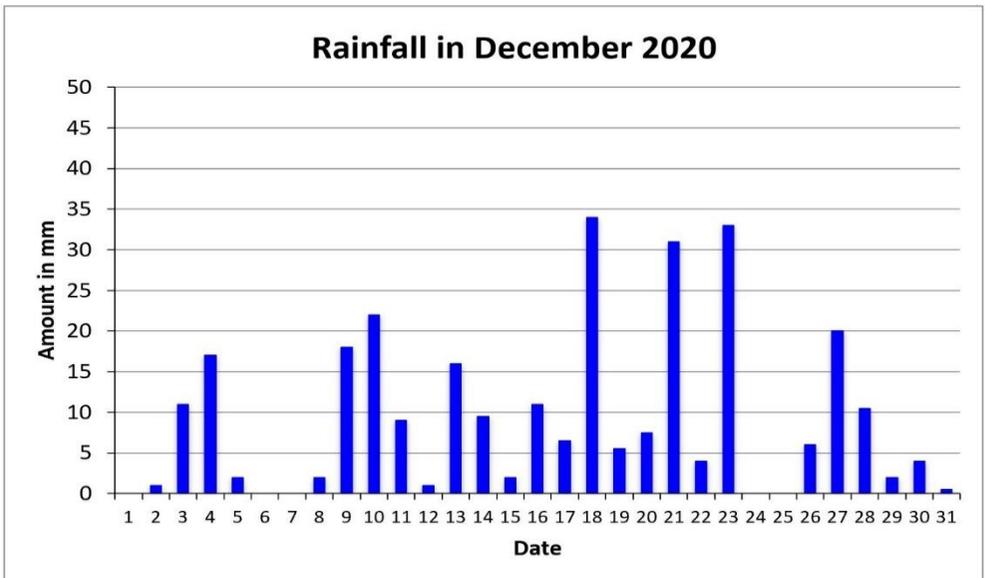
Rainfall at Shellwood Hill *George Arnison*

December was a wet month... and bar a couple of days early in the month and a dry Christmas Eve & Day, it rained to a greater or lesser degree every day. I recorded 286mm (just over 11 ¼ ") at Shellwood Hill making it the wettest month of the year, and the second wettest December over the last eleven years (average 190mm).

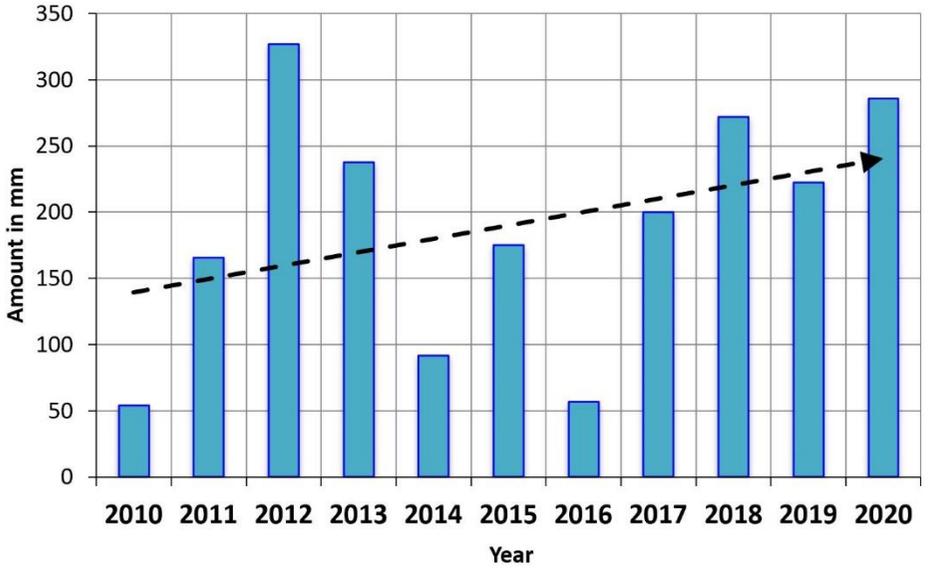
2020 was also a wet year overall for us...and the year's rainfall total of 1739mm was well above the annual average of 1499mm for the last eleven years, and second only to 2012 (when you may recall there was major flooding across the county). We had a particularly dry May, July and September but several months which were much wetter than average – in particular February and December. Looking back across the year as a whole, I can see we had rain on 187 days (i.e. around 51% of days)...and whilst this was roughly the same for each day of the week, more rain fell across the Wednesdays, Thursdays and Friday than the other days. However whilst we had our moments of sun, wind and rain we didn't experience any real extremes and our wettest day (47mm) was in August...for the fourth year in a row !!

Nationally this year's February was the wettest recorded – thanks to a series of named storms including one which originated from an Atlantic depression of just 920Mb (Storm Dennis). The 2nd of October also saw the wettest individual day across the country on record (Storm Alex).

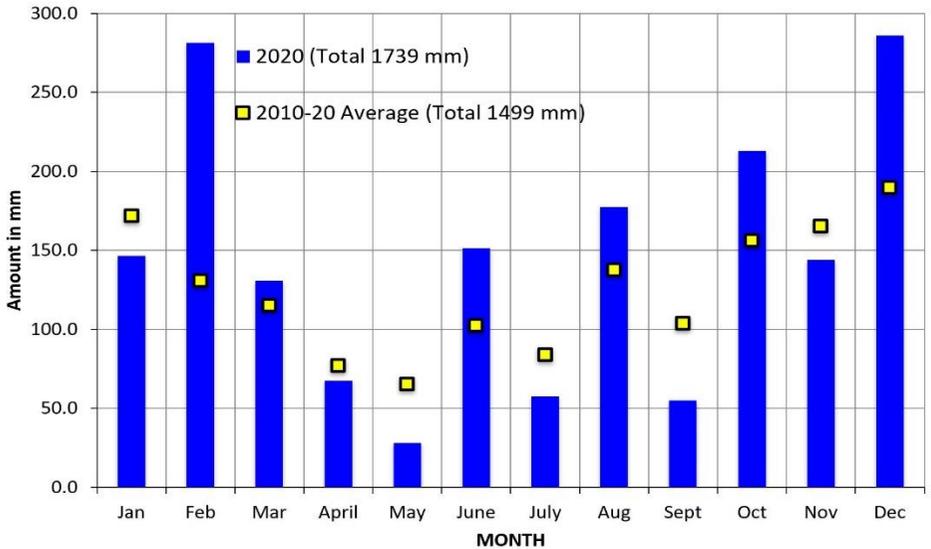
Globally, there were major climate-change driven wildfires in Australia and California, and Antarctica recorded its warmest day ever (a very balmy 18°C). The experts are still debating whether 2020 was the warmest or the second warmest year on record (a bit of a technicality) – but it certainly marked the end of by far the warmest decade since records began in 1850. Despite this, I suspect 2020 will be remembered for a number of things other than the weather.



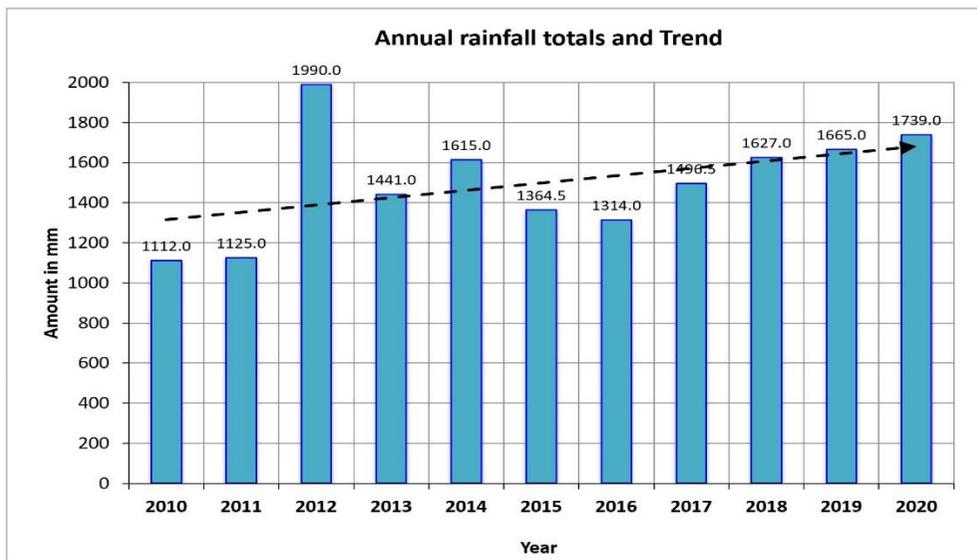
December rainfalls and Trend



Monthly rainfall for 2020 - compared to 11 Year averages



Annual rainfall totals and Trend



Beryl's Bookworms – Sharon Hughes

Last month's read for Beryl's Bookworms was *10 minutes 38 seconds in this strange world* by Elif Shafak.

A title everyone agreed didn't give you many clues about the subject matter!

This, unless of course you were already aware of a study by a Canadian Dr, 3 years ago, where they claimed to have witnessed brain activity in a person 10 minutes 38 seconds after being declared clinically dead.

The story starts through the memories of the dead protagonist, Leila. This covers many tragic events like child sexual abuse and intolerance of disability and religious extremism.

The heaviness of this is lightened and in part humorously described by memories of a description of smells and taste of the times and gives the reader a vivid feeling of being there.

This is an intricately woven story with multiple themes but the main one being Friendship.

Leila meets 5 friends throughout her life, all who have their own back stories of their challenges with fitting in in society due to their sexuality or disability etc. One of them names their group 'A water family' and the importance of this, when your blood family has let you down so badly becomes ever more important.

Some of the book group felt they would be scared to visit Turkey and especially Istanbul whilst another told everyone of many very happy trips there and of the warmth and friendliness of this diverse country.

The book itself was mostly keenly read although one or two were put off by the main protagonist being dead already and feeling 'what's the point of reading further.' Another felt the images were so descriptive that she couldn't stop from visualising herself being in this situation and just too unbearable to read on.

There is a change in the tone of the book in the final third and one that many of the group didn't like, feeling it was slap sticky and just a caper.

The overall score came out at just under a 4 but many felt it would have got full marks if judged on the first two thirds! Our book next month is *Olive Again* by Elizabeth Strout.





Your Stars Tonight. The mysteries of the universe have continued to keep me entertained over the last few weeks, even though they have been confined to the back garden rather than what might be happening in the heavens. I have adopted a family of Cabbage Whites and as a result have become deeply involved in their day to day struggles for survival in a cold wet universe. Mum and Dad arrived on my nasturtium plants early in September. They were feckless

parents, and unlike chickens, there was no sitting on the eggs. As soon as the job was done, they abandoned their responsibilities and were off like flibbertigibbets, no doubt heading to their local snack bar at the Ugborough Allotments, to feast on cabbages and curly kale.

At first, I was delighted as an army of tiny caterpillars emerged into the late autumn sunlight, but was slightly taken aback by their vociferous appetites, which quickly reduced my nasturtiums to a lightly chewed cud. However, I forgave them as they were obviously in a race against time with approaching winter, and each morning I cheered my team of black and yellow striped lads and lasses on in their race to pupae state. Caterpillars, unencumbered by Lockdown rules and regulations, live somewhat exciting lives – no less than five times do they wake up in the morning to find their skin has gone brittle and then it burst apart as their next new body emerges from the moulted pelt.

In early December I was blessed with a splendid herd of plump creatures ready for the next step in their lives, and on a sunny morning, one of them set off on an epic journey; first down the rockery, across the garden path and then up the wall of the house to underneath the window ledge. When I returned a couple of hours later, I was astonished to find it had already turned into a pupa – a transformation rather like turning a jump suit into a survival tent – without taking anything off. Lockdown is getting to me, and I had become very attached to my little friends – to the point of giving them names. I called this one Bette, after a rather tough and determined Norwegian aunt of mine. A couple of days later, Bertie made the same journey to join Bette. (I admit I did not actually ascertain their sex but apparently one can tell if one wants to be very intrusive into their private lives using a magnifying glass). I noticed Bertie was looking very uncomfortable, rather like a pubescent adolescent, as though he guessed something unpleasant was about to happen to his body. He sidled up to close to Bette and then just hung on to the wall. The temperature was dropping fast, and I fear Bertie had left it too late as he is now looking very shrunken but only his tail end has changed to a pupa.

Meanwhile there was one last caterpillar left on the nasturtiums who seemed to have drifted off into a post prandial slumber. Halfway through January Zach woke up and decided to join his siblings and one sunny morning I was delighted to see him doggedly climbing up the wall to join the rest of his family. What drove him to do this? How did he navigate to exactly the same spot? Alas Zach never made it and I suspect he has now been long since digested by a robin. I have now built a little screen to keep the worst of the weather of Bette and Bertie as they are another reason for me to keep hanging on in the hope of spring.

And I was able to migrate to the bottom of the garden last night as the skies cleared. Orion strode across the southern horizon with the Dog star, Sirius, blazing at his feet and at midnight Leo, the Lion, appeared over the horizon for the first time this year – spring is in the air.

Ugborough Parish Council

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

Website: <https://ugboroughparishcouncil.org>

Graham Wilson, of PL:21 Transition Initiative started the January Meeting by presenting four options for an Active Travel route from Ivybridge Rugby Club to Bittaford, for use by walkers, cyclists or horse riders. The remaining route, in Ivybridge and from Bittaford to South Brent was considered safe. A more detailed analysis is needed, although the Parish Council considered the proposal for horse riding through Bittaford playpark would be unacceptable.

G-Up wildlife and diversity proposals followed, with exciting ideas, including creating a wildlife meadow on the church green (although this may be restricted to a 3ft edge strip in order to accommodate community use of the green); replanting planters and additional tubs; replenishing the planting area in Donkey Lane playpark; replanting the churchyard with wildflowers; providing a hedgehog corridor around the village; and encouraging wildlife associated with footpaths.

Councillors also suggested planting in Bittaford playpark and the burial ground, and a wildlife corridor through private gardens. A meeting is being held later in January to firm up proposals.

County Cllr Hosking reported on incidents of COVID-19 in Devon, and the effect of the new lockdown on schools and online tuition. Some helpful links:

- Families qualifying for free school meals and those facing hardship should contact Neil.Hawke@southwestdevon.gov.uk.
- Help is available through the helpline (01803) 861297, Citizens Advice Bureau 0344 411 1444 and Heart of the Southwest Local Enterprise Partnership 03456 047047

Connecting Devon and Somerset has just signed new Broadband contracts, including with Airband, to deliver full fibre connectivity to 56,396 homes and businesses across six procurement lots within Devon and Somerset between 2021 and 2024, with public funding of £36.8 m.

Household Waste Recycling Centres will remain open during lockdown, although the resale shops will be closed. Winter opening hours: 9am-4.30pm (weekends 10am-4:30pm). Leisure centres have closed.

Following Brexit, online advice is available at [How to Import](#) and [How to Export](#)

Finally, Cllr Hosking extended a huge thank you to all of the volunteers who are still, nearly a year after the commencement of the pandemic, helping the vulnerable who are isolating or quarantined.

I am sure we would all endorse this – thank you.

Planning applications – only one, with recommendations in **bold**:

[2393/20/FUL](#) Retrospective change of use of land to a residential traveller site, associated operational development and erection of barn, Land at Torpeek, Bittaford **Object. New development in open countryside**

The 2021/22 Budget & Precept was the major item on the agenda. The precept, or Parish Council element of the Council Tax, will increase to £26,570. As there are additional houses in the Parish, this means that the Band D Council Tax will remain at £30.86 – the same as last year. Full details of the budget are available in the [minutes](#).

The Interim Devon Carbon Plan [consultation](#) continues, and 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.

The 2021 Census will be held on Sunday 21 March, and the Office of National Statistics want us to be prepared. Information about the Census, how your data is kept safe and what happens to your personal information is available at <https://census.gov.uk/>

Winter weather prompted a discussion on grit bins. Grit bins are provided on roads that are not normally treated at known trouble spots such as steep hills and frost hollows. You are welcome to spread the grit on the public highway – but not private drives and paths. Empty bins can be reported [online](#).

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held remotely on Wednesday 3rd February starting at 7.30pm. Agenda and minutes will be displayed on the website and noticeboards.

Privacy policy – visit ugboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Bittaford Methodist Chapel *Chris Phillips 07899934743*

Sadly, we are closed for the time being but will seek to re-open as soon as we can.

Until then we are joining Ivybridge Methodist Church Zoom service, all welcome, for joining details please email revmark@live.co.uk

'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.' Psalm 46:1

(Congratulations to Chris on his recent honour.)

St. Peter's Church, Ugborough

Our church building is temporarily closed for services.

We will re-open it as soon as we feel it is wise to do so.

In the meantime, prayer, worship, and support are continuing online and over the phone.

Services are held every Sunday at 11 a.m. online and via telephone.

The online service on the first Sunday of each month is Holy Communion.

In addition, there are online Bible Study and Prayer meetings. Contact the Rector for details.

We invite you to connect with us in the following ways:

Website - www.3rivers.org.uk

Email - parish_sayle@me.com

Telephone Number – 01548 821199 (Rev'd David Sayle)

Ermington church is open for private prayer on Wednesdays from 12 noon to 1 p.m. and on Sundays from 2-3 p.m.

Need to talk?

It doesn't matter if you normally attend church or not, we are here for you. Please do not hesitate to get in touch whether it's just for a chat or something more serious.

In the meantime there will be a Sunday Service on Zoom or via telephone for the whole of the Mission Community at 11am.

Please email parish_sayle@me.com or telephone 01548 821199 for the log in details.

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. According to the published timetable, the next scheduled date for the mobile library is February 16th from 9.30-10 a.m. but the actual situation is not clear at present.

The Devon County Council mobile library website page states the following-

'During the current lockdown it has been necessary to make some changes to our service.'

Our mobile libraries will not be on the road, but the mobile library team will be providing a targeted response to isolated individuals within rural communities.

To assist our customers, we have put the following temporary arrangements in place-

- Existing loans have been extended to week to 29th March 2021.
- You can review loans online or by contacting your library via email.
- Suspended our reservation charges through to 29th March 2021 as items may take longer than usual to become available.
- Our digital library remains open, you can download and stream free eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and e-newspapers from our extensive collection. You can use our online resources from home and access to Ancestry Library Edition has been extended to March 2021. In addition, there is remote access to Business Information databases. Find out more at <https://bjpc.librariesunlimited.org.uk>

I am sure that our mobile librarian, Heidi, will contact those who use the library service ahead of any visit or other arrangements.

Don't forget to visit your Post Office in Ugborough Church on Thursday morning from 10 a.m. – 12 noon.

Contributions

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

A few hard copies have been produced for those without internet availability and many thanks to Ivybridge Community College for printing 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>

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