

Ugborough Parish Newsletter

January 2023



What's on

Wednesday 4 th January	Spring Term starts	Page 8
Saturday 7 th January	Winter Warmers lunch at Ugborough Village Hall from 12 noon-2 p.m.	Page 4
Monday 9 th January	Ugborough Parish Council meets at Ugborough Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.	Page 12
Saturday 14 th January	Ugborough Sustainable Saturday at Ugborough Village Hall from 10 a.m.-12 noon	Page 4
Sunday 15 th January	Ugborough Wassail from 5.30 p.m. -for full details see item	Page 16
Wednesday 18 th January	Ladies' Lunch at The Ship at 12 noon	Page 4
Sunday 22 nd January	Messy Church at Ugborough Church from 4.30 -6 p.m.	Page 15
Tuesday 24 th January	Defibrillator training at Bittaford Village Hall at 7 p.m.	Page 12
Thursday 26 th January	Carbon Footprinters meet at Ugborough Village Hall at 8 p.m.	Page 6
Saturday 28 th January	Ugborough Sustainable Saturday at Ugborough Village Hall from 10 a.m.-12 noon	Page 4

Details of services at Bittaford Methodist Church are on Page 12

Details of services at St. Peter's Church, Ugborough are on Page 14

The Newsletter Annual Report – and Appeal for 2023 – Sue Johns, Treasurer

As you'll know this Newsletter is distributed in paper form to over 400 households in the Parish – and to many more electronically - and aims to promote local events and happenings in the Parish. The Team consists of Norma Roe – who as Editor spends hours compiling and editing the content each month – and never misses an issue even if she's away from home. This is a mammoth time-consuming task – and we are very grateful for her skill, dedication and commitment.

Tom and Anne Holway handle the sorting and distribution, and there are yet more stalwarts who do the letter boxing. The Newsletters are printed by the Reprographic Department at Ivybridge Community College – and they produce a collated version for collection at a very competitive cost.

We are pleased that we are able to run this Missive without advertising revenue – but it does depend on donations from the local Organisations that make use of the Newsletter, and from generous individuals who simply appreciate the service.

The Accounts for 2022 are as follows:

INCOME:		EXPENDITURE	
Individuals	80.00	Printing Jan - Dec	977.80
St Peter's Church PCC	100.00		
USS	107.95		
Friends of Ugborough School	50.00		
Ugborough Village Hall	100.00		
Ugborough Dramatic Society	100.00		
Greener Ugborough	25.00		
UgFest	50.00		
Ugborough Fair	50.00		
Ugborough Gardening Club	40.00		
Erme Valley RDA	40.00		
Ugborough Parish council	200.00		
TOTAL INCOME	942.95	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	977.80

Income over Expenditure: (-£34.85)

We only aim to cover costs – so we reckon this is a pretty good balance sheet!

Tom Holway has cast his eye over the books.

Thank you EVERYONE who contributes in any way... a great Team effort, and we do hope you will be happy to support us again next year.

St Peter's Church – Sue Johns

What a fantastic Christmas Season it's been at St Peter's!

The Carol Service was a resounding success, led by Rev David Sayle – a 20 strong joint Community and Benefice Choir led a packed church singing familiar carols with soaring descants, accompanied by Jan Dietz on the organ.

Ian and Mark from the Greenwood Consort led the fledgling Ugborough Festival Orchestra, a newly founded group of children and adults - the latter mostly dusting off instruments unused since they left school - to accompany a children's choir with three Christmas Songs.

We were privileged to be invited to play an original composition by our very own Graham Gilbert; Let the Children Sing – and they certainly did! What next year Graham??!

The service was rounded off with mince pies and mulled wine – and a sweet laden gingerbread house made by Sylvia Marcus.

Thanks to ALL who made this service possible from the singers to musicians, from the mince pie bakers to the Readers, the flower arrangers and tree decorators to the candle stick erectors and sides people.

This service was followed by the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve – when around 200 people and nearly 100 children met outside the church to enjoy this traditional service with Christmas lights twinkling in the half light, and the church lit splendidly. We just about dodged the showers! A fantastic £375 was raised for the Children's Society.

Christmas morning was an All-Age Eucharist, and several children brought their gifts to show. David Sayle was sorely tempted to demonstrate his skateboarding technique to Wills down the main aisle!

Mixing the modern with the traditional, the service was indeed relevant and meaningful for All Ages.

A huge thank you to all who made donations towards the cost of powering the church floodlights over the Christmas Season. Thanks to the Parish Council for their regular £50; a further nearly £100 was donated by individuals – and huge thanks to Tom at the Anchor for organising a collection of £106 for this appeal. We will certainly be able to continue to light the church until Candlemas – and even maybe save a little towards the time when the lights need replacing – an expensive exercise!

Moving on into the New Year, Messy Church will return on January 22nd.

As there is a fifth Sunday in January there will be no service in Ugborough on January 29th – but we shall all decamp to join with all the Benefice churches in a Eucharist at Diptford at 11 a.m.

May we wish you all a happy and peaceful 2023!

Ugborough Sustainable Saturdays - Val Holman, 894973

We will be in the village hall this month on every other Saturday from 10 a.m. – 12 noon, selling all manner of delicious food and clever craft items. The ever-popular café, providing excellent coffee and other drinks, plus bacon butties, will be running alongside the stalls. The upcoming dates are Saturday 14th January and Saturday 28th January.

For more information email ugboroughss@gmail.com

Erme Valley RDA- Peggy Douglas

From me and all my fellow Directors at EVRDA may we wish a very Happy New Year to all our supporters, riders and volunteers! We can't thank you enough for all that you do to make riding at The Brook possible.

The Christmas sponsored event – where individuals think up their own challenges to raise vital funds, took place in December, and has thus far realised over £1500.

The Christmas Raffle made £230 and there were £50 worth of guesses for the weight of the Christmas Cake.

We welcome the Acorns and Squirrels Group who are merging with us on January 1st. We are looking forward to meeting some of their riders.

We are delighted to say that we have been awarded a top grant from the Cadbury's Foundation of £5000! This will be put to excellent use, probably towards buying that elusive perfect horse...

A huge thank you to Tom Davies (Owen's son) from Sue Johns – as he deciphers her rows of figures to turn the accounts into documents fit for the Charity Commissioners and Company's House! She is eternally grateful!

Everyone is most welcome to visit The Brook to see us in action ... just contact me first ... you never know you might find that inner Volunteer lurking inside you. ALL help in any shape or form, is gratefully received.

07882 286421

Winter Warmers- Philomena Jones

Please join friends and neighbours with a warming bowl of soup and cake at Ugborough Village Hall from 12- 2 p.m. £2 per head.

Future dates- January 7th

February 18th, March 18th

Ladies' Lunch Pat Stephens

The date for the next lunch is Wednesday 18th January at The Ship, Ugborough for 12 noon. Contact Pat Stephens 07704 113837 to book.

The Thursday Coffee Morning

in St Peter's Church is BACK, hopefully alongside our continuing weekly Post Office (but please check for notices in the porch and in The Bugle about the Post Office service).

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

Please make use of the hand gel and respect others' space. All are welcome!

Ceremonial Flying of the Flag

January 9th

Birthday of Katherine, Princess of Wales

January 20th

Birthday of Sophie, Countess of Wessex



Ugborough and Bittaford Pre- School (incorporating breakfast club

and after school club) Charity Number 1043499 – *Tess Watkinson*

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

Contact: admin@ugboroughandbittafordpre-school.org.uk

Contact: 07763 215 455

The children have really enjoyed the countdown to Christmas this month and we hope they have a fantastic festive break.

We've been decorating our Christmas tree, baking Christmas goodies such as mince pies and sweetened-bread garlands as well as crafting decorations which the children have proudly taken home for their trees.

Our final day of the term saw our Christmas party. The children looked lovely dressed up for a celebration and had a whale of a time especially when Father Christmas came to say hello! They had a sing-song and a feast and parents came in and had a good look at their Celebration Books.

We would love to increase the number of members on the committee so please do contact us if you have even just a little time to spare. In particular, we are still pursuing various options for our purpose-built setting in the village. If you have an interest in helping us in provide this facility, which will benefit the village as a whole, we would love to hear from you. You do not need to have children attending the preschool to join, just to want the best for Ugborough!



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

Jackie Andrade and Faith Matthews

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

Our most recent public talk featured local expert David Roe, who (re)introduced us to the idea of our household carbon footprint and showed how small changes such as watching your speed when driving, sealing draughts, and trying meat-free recipes can make big changes to your household's environmental impact (as well as your bills). David has generously offered to help us revisit **our ambitious (but achievable) scheme to reduce household carbon footprints by 25% over 5 years**. We look forward to reforming the original group of aspiring carbon reducers and welcome new members. **If you are interested in reducing your household carbon footprint and would like to be part of this informative scheme, please come to the first meeting on Thursday 26th January (8pm in the Village Hall)**. We are very grateful as ever to David for sharing his expertise, enthusiasm, time and spreadsheets.

We have been supporting Ugborough Parish Council's efforts to re-open the public toilets in Bittaford and Ugborough. We feel that public loos are an essential ingredient of Active Travel and help people make the most of our outdoor spaces including the children's play parks.

Emma from ELM hedgehog rescue offers some advice for helping hedgehogs. It's a tricky time of year for them as bigger hogs will hibernate when the weather is very cold, waking up to feed on milder nights, but smaller ones need to keep eating throughout the winter. You can help them get through by offering high protein cat biscuits where meat is the first ingredient and fresh water each evening. A way to stop cats getting there first is to put food for hedgehogs under a plastic box with an entrance hole cut in it, weighted down with a brick and with another brick placed at an angle across the front - this fools cats but hedgehogs are more agile. Would you like to see if this works? Thanks to funding from Wild about Devon, G-UP has an easy-to-use trail camera with night vision for filming wildlife in your garden. Please email greenerugp@gmail.com if you'd like to borrow it. We would love to see your wildlife photos and videos.

We'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a peaceful, happy and sustainable New Year.

Please find G-UP on Facebook or drop us a line if you would like to be added to our email circulation list and hear about future events directly: greenerugp@gmail.com

Clear Water below Ugborough *by Graham and David*

It was a change in the weather that challenged two of Ugborough's finest as they set off up the hill to Toby Cross laden with test tubes, Molly Blues and assorted water collecting vessels. Gone was the unseasonable warmth of November and the cold nasty Artic wind had seized control of the weather. So there was little conversation on the way up the hill as avoiding the treacherous ice patches required full concentration. At the top of the hill, there is the gate where many of us pause so as to take in the view down the Lud Brook and then the Erme Valley to the little triangle of sea at Mothecombe. But it is all change up there - the battered old wooden five bar gate has been replaced by a utilitarian steel gate at the end of the sweeping driveway, no doubt meeting the landscaping vision of those attuned to the 21st Century. And the rather unruly hedges around the field had not so much been layed, as flayed, and brutally hacked to a battered stubs.

However it was too cold at the top of the hill to mourn the loss of another little patch of rural untidiness, and anyway, the hill down past Bowcombe Wood needed attention as it had turned into an ice rink with a 1 in 5 gradient. The morning sun had not yet melted the hoar frost and the leaves of the brambles glistened with tiny spikey ice crystals. This inevitably led to a learned monologue on the research work of Professor Kenneth Libbrecht of the California Institute of Technology, who when not thinking about gravitational waves, retires to his laboratory to try and understand why warm snowflakes are different from cold snowflakes (as many skiers and snow boarders will know)

At Earlescombe we met up with a local landowner, who took us for a tour along the Lud Brook. He shared his deep love of nature, helping us to spot a dipper that darted up stream, pointing out the restless natural movement of the meandering stream and the spawning ground of the local trout. There is a hint that salmon may one day return to the Lud Brook and certainly it was running fast and clear with a 100% rating in our tests. And the news that eels have taken up residence in the local pond gave us a warm feeling that it is not all bad news on the environmental front. From there it was an epic climb up the hill from Earlescombe as the road had turned into a wall-to-wall ice sheet, but after a few heart stopping slips and slides we reached the public footpath to Quarry farm and then down the road to Ludbrook.

Oooh! - it was cold at the little bridge over the Bowcombe stream at Ludbrook as the icy wind blasted down the valley from Ugborough. Putting the "Molly Blue" phosphate test strip into a test tube of water from the Bowbrook was a painful experience - but the result at 300 ppb of phosphate was unchanged from last time - OK, but could be better.

We scuttled back to Ugborough, up what sometimes seems the longest hill in Devon - Windy Ridge farm certainly lived up to its name - to arrive back in the village in a dusting of snow and a warming cup of tea and a red Leicester cheese and pickle sandwich. The Westcountry Rivers Trust (have a look at their website at <https://wrt.org.u.k/>) have now asked us if we could monitor the pollution levels at the end of the Ludbrook where it enters the Erme at Fawn Bridge and also higher up the Erme at Lower Keaton - that should be interesting as there is concern at the health of the River Erme below Ivybridge.

Ugborough Primary School -Headteacher, Mrs. Lucy French

What an amazing Christmas Celebration we had at Ugborough Church. Well done to all of our children for taking part and making it a musical Christmas Extravaganza.

Just before the end of term in our Forest School session Year 3 made 'food' gifts for the birds by threading apple and cheese onto wire. They then hung these up around our Forest School site. This was Year 3's way of giving Christmas gifts to nature

Monday 19th December – Tuesday 3rd January - Christmas Break

Wednesday 4th January- First Day Back

Beryl's Bookworms –

We had a fantastic time at our annual Christmas party in December (this time with a French theme!)



Thanks to Katie for hosting and to Sharon for the amazing games!

All photographic evidence to be classified! January's book is *The Paris Library* by Janet Skeslien Charles.

Pigs In Blankets by Stephen Fletcher performed by Ugborough Dramatic Society -Sue Johns

A Pantomime in the true sense of the word, this was NOT! However, our first venture into a full-length play was a rip-roaring success! The vast majority of punters came out clutching their aching sides at the farcical antics of the 6 main characters, who over the weeks of rehearsals dug into their ridiculous roles with dogged determination! All this under the watchful eye of the playwright who cajoled, coaxed, flattered and probably bribed the players to accept his (dark!) vision of every individual... Emotions were highly charged as the audience was led from hilarity to pathos and back again.

To quote a well-known, experienced, local dramatist who attended the show. 'Really enjoyed Pigs In Blankets' at Ugborough Village Hall. Very entertaining script, performed by a brilliant company of character actors. Local theatre at its very best.'

It was a triumph for the actors who were concerned about taking on such lengthy and onerous roles... they needn't have worried!

The usual Backstage crew did themselves proud as ever, the Techy/Lighting Boys illuminating – and we're very lucky to have loyal supporters who step up to help with all aspects Front of House.

What on earth next??

From Richard Lane - Poppy Appeal organiser for Ugborough Parish:

A big thank you to all residents of Ugborough Parish who helped raise a fantastic £935.17 to the Poppy Appeal with an extra big thanks to the kids and teachers of Ugborough School who raised a massive £225.

Yealm Rouleurs 2022 – a year of rides and useful information on changes to the Highway Code. – Pete Stevens

Leading local road cycling club, Yealm Rouleurs, ride every Saturday in the South Hams, and have had a full year of riding in 2022. Our number grew to nearly 30, with a range of ages, male and female. The main criteria for riders that want to join are owning a road worthy racing bike and being able to cycle for 30 plus miles at 12-14 mph. Contact us via Facebook for more information.

Notable achievements

The club had its annual memorial ride on a chilly day in April for our founder, Ken Middlemiss, 50 miles and back to his favourite café, Fox Tor in Princetown.

Other notable rides included the Dartmoor classic sportive where many rode the longest route, 109 miles from Newton Abbot, through Princetown to Tavistock and back.

There are many abilities within the club, most are happy to enjoy social rides, whereas others train for and compete in triathlons, time-trials and even ironman events. Others headed to the French Alps to ride the mountains and watch the Tour de France.

Pete Stevens, Chair of the Yealm Rouleurs said "It's great to be part of a club and carry on Ken's memory. We get to ride around such beautiful countryside and find the best routes and cafés to stop at".

Changes to the highway code

The highway code was updated in Jan 2022 with a clear hierarchy of road users. This places those road users most at risk in the event of a collision at the top of the hierarchy (pedestrian, horses and cyclists). There is specific guidance for cyclists, that the club adhere to.

From the guidance: Cyclist should ride in the centre of their lane on quiet roads, in slower-moving traffic and at the approach to junctions or road narrowings.

Cyclists should keep at least 0.5 metres away from the kerb edge (and further where it is safer) when riding on busy roads with vehicles moving faster than them.

When riding in groups, cyclists should be considerate of the needs of other road users. Riders can ride 2 abreast - and it can be safer to do so, particularly in larger groups or when accompanying children or less experienced riders.

There is updated guidance on safe passing distances and speeds for people driving or riding a motorcycle when overtaking vulnerable road users, including leaving at least 1.5 metres when overtaking people cycling when driving at speeds of up to 30mph, and giving them more space when overtaking at higher speeds.

There is much more guidance on the government website.

The crowds in the Ugborough Square were delighted to receive a visit from Santa on Christmas Eve! He was as jolly as ever and resplendent on his tractor towed sleigh.

No idea how he found the time!

Thank you, Santa!

Ugborough Parish Council

Clerk: Sally Smale Email: ugboroughhpc@yahoo.co.uk

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

UPC- Ugborough Parish Council

SHDC- South Hams District Council DCC- Devon County Council

DNP- Dartmoor National Park

Matters raised by members of the public at the December meeting

Four members of the public attended the meeting.

The future of the public toilets in Bittaford and Ugborough was raised. Three members of the public supported the re-opening of the toilets and presented ideas for using the Ugborough block for additional purposes. We have also received 4 emails supporting the re-opening of the toilets.

We considered the matter later in the meeting and in particular the financial risk if we adopted the toilets (especially if the use was changed). We also considered cleaning, maintenance and utility costs and agreed that we need more information before making a decision:

- Whether SHDC would restore the toilets to a reasonable condition?
- Is there an option for SHDC to retain ownership of the toilets and rent to UPC?
- Is there an option for SHDC to retain ownership and maintenance and UPC to just be responsible for cleaning costs up to a value of £3,000 per annum?
- Can there be any movement on the overage clause?
- If the toilets were developed to offer additional community facilities would the overage apply?
- Is there any grant funding available to help with the project?
- Would planning permission be required for change of use?

We also agreed that a business plan would be needed for any agreed additional facilities to ensure it was a sustainable option.

Cllr Holway will continue his discussions with SHDC offering UPC's proposal to pay cleaning costs up to £3,000 if SHDC retained ownership and the clerk will invite someone from SHDC Assets team to the Council meeting on 9th January at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

If there is anyone who would be interested in cleaning the toilets in a voluntary or paid capacity should they re-open, please contact the clerk.

A member of the public thanked DCC for redoing the white lines in the village and requested that the yellow lines outside the school also be done

Report from DNP Councillor Pannell

- The new byelaws are progressing
- DNP is defending the right to wild camping at the recent High Court case.
- There has been no increase in the budget for next year and so it is a reduction in the current climate

DCC Councillor submitted [this report](#) (link available in on line version)

Headlines:

Winter holiday food support for low-income families in Devon

Donna Manson confirmed as Council's new Chief Executive
Devon Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy Consultation

SHDC Councillors submitted [this report](#) (link available in on line version)

Headlines:

Government funding to the South Hams

Severe Weather Emergency Protocol

SHDC winter fund

Garden Waste Collections

Planning

We supported 5 planning applications and returned a neutral comment on a 6th one subject to DCC confirming the suitability of the junction for the two additional vehicles using the entrance driveway. SHDC had informed us of 8 planning decisions they had made in the parish this month.

Financial Matters

We were happy to grant fund CAB South Hams £300. (Citizens' Advice Bureau)

We considered 2 proposed budgets for 2023- 2024 and the impact each would have on the precept Band D equivalent payment. We decided to keep the payment at the same amount paid last year in order not to put further financial burden on everyone. This will still increase the precept to cover additional Council expenditure due to a higher number of properties in the parish than last year. The Clerk will now make final adjustments to the budget for approval at the January meeting.

Council Assets

We will be applying for grant funding from SHDC and DCC to landscape the bit of land under the viaduct in Bittaford that we now have permission to work on.

The latest inspection of Bittaford Play Park did not identify any significant issues apart from the start of some rotting on the woodwork.

Highways & Rights of Way

We have received a request to place a vehicle activated speed camera on the approach to Beacon View in Bittaford. Moving our current camera or purchasing a second one would involve significant expense and so Cllr Beable will source a "Blind junction" sign and the impact of this monitored before further consideration of the matter.

We agreed to support the draft temporary traffic regulation order as a temporary measure subject to it remaining open to non-motorised road users and being kept in a fit state of repair.

There is a meeting with DCC to discuss a 20mph speed limit in Ugborough village on 11th January 2023

School Field

We have met with the Chief Executive of the Academy and their lawyers are now looking at licence agreements.

Date of next meeting: Monday 9th January 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in The Village Hall

Privacy policy – visit ugboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk

Litter picking equipment is available to local volunteers. To borrow, please contact the Parish Clerk Tel 07814849131 ugboroughpc@yahoo.co.uk

Defibrillator Training

Defibrillator training will take place at Bittaford Village Hall on 24th January at 7 p.m.

All are welcome.

For more information contact the Parish Clerk as above

Bittaford Methodist Chapel *Chris Phillips 07899934743*

All services start at 11 a.m. unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 1st January- Mr M Cade

Sunday 8th January- Revd D. Young. Covenant Service.

Sunday 15th January- Local arrangement.

Sunday 22nd January – 3 p.m. Revd A Roper. Cafe service.

Sunday 29th January- Mrs M McNaughton.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Meal Thanks

To all who helped with preparation, cooking, serving and clearing up,

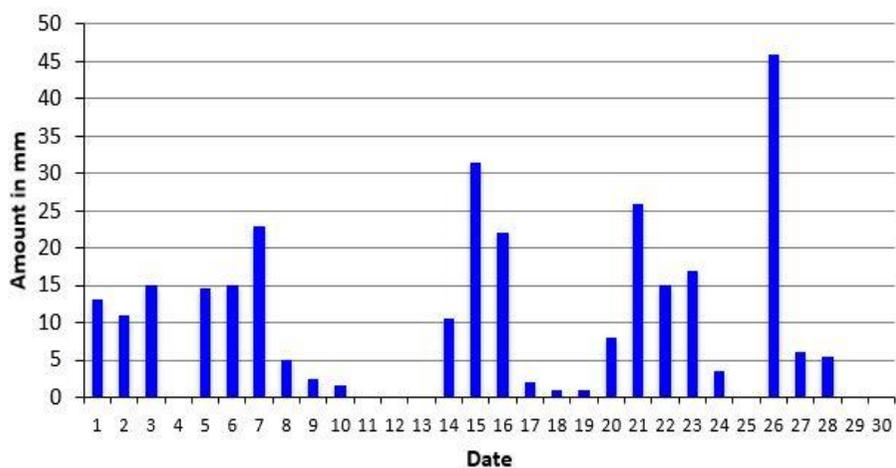
Thank you so much for providing such a wonderful meal on Saturday 10th December- it was much appreciated. The quality was outstanding, and I know that everyone had a brilliant time. It was so lovely to be able to get together like this again.

A very sincere thank you, and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2023.

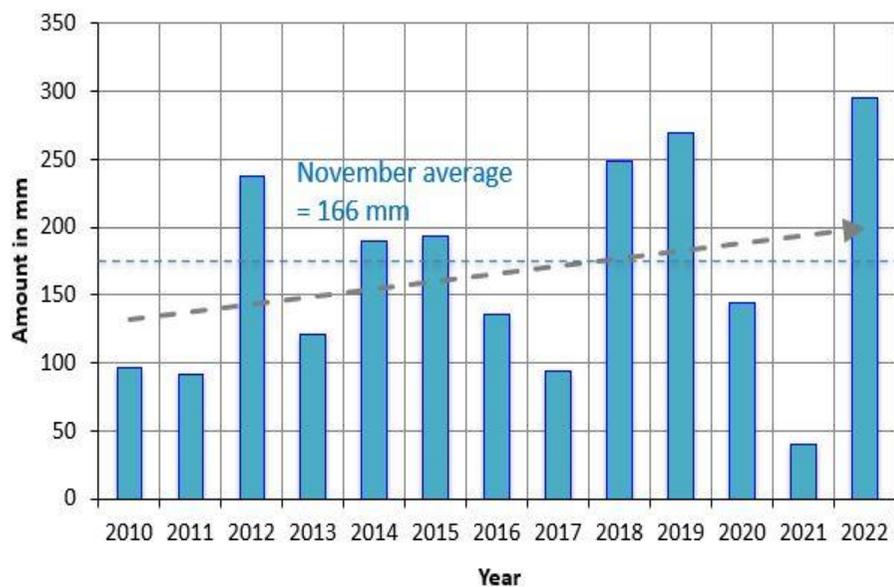
Rainfall at Shellwood Hill *George Arnison*

November was wet... also very mild, but definitely wet. I recorded 295.5mm (just over 11 ½") of rain at Shellwood Hill, which made it the wettest month of the year – by far. It was more than twice as wet as October, (which was the previously wettest month of 2022) and in fact it was the wettest individual month since December 2014. Not surprisingly, it was the wettest November on my 13-year record, and well above the monthly average of 166mm. The Met Office say it was the third warmest November ever...I just remember the wet.

Rainfall in November 2022



November rainfalls and Trend



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 1 st January	Morning Praise- an informal service for everyone Led by Local Worship Leaders
Sunday 8 th January	Holy Communion- a more traditional service
Sunday 15 th January	Morning Praise- an informal service led by Local Worship Leaders
Sunday 22 nd January	Holy Communion- a more traditional service 4.30 p.m. Messy Church (see below)
Sunday 29 th January	11 a.m. Joint Mission Community Service at Diptford Church. (No service at Ugborough.)

Please use the hand gel provided and respect others' space.

Sunday 22nd January 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, 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.

We hope that the Post Office will continue its service at Ugborough Church on Thursday mornings but in any event, 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.

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 17th.

According to South Hams District Council website, the next refuse collection for grey bins and recycling is **Tuesday 3rd January.**

Holbeton Film Club at Holbeton Village Hall - Harry Baumer 01752 830274

Our programme for the coming months is:

Operation Mincemeat, 12A, Saturday 14th January 2023

Where The Crawdads Sing, 15, Friday 10th February

Downton Abbey: a new era, PG, Saturday 11th March

Fisherman's Friends: one and all, 12A, Friday 14th April

Mrs Harris Goes To Paris, PG, Saturday 13th May

Tickets on the door still only £4 (cash only). Ice creams will be on sale for £1.

An old Devon tradition returns to Ugborough - Graham Gilbert

This year, for the first time in many years, the custom of wassailing returns to Ugborough. This ancient tradition is found in all the cider-making counties of England as well as in some Midland counties. It possibly has its roots in pre-Christian times as a fertility rite but the earliest extant mention of the custom in Devon dates to 1647.

“Wassail” is derived from the Anglo-Saxon words Waes Hael, meaning “Be of good health”, which were used as a drinking toast or simply to wish people well. Wassailing as we know it was, in Devon at least, generally celebrated on the eve of the old Twelfth Night. The ceremony consists of offerings being made to the spirits of apple trees to ensure a fruitful harvest the following year. This is accompanied by people making as much noise as possible: shouting, beating pots, and latterly firing gun shots into the branches. The purpose of this was to scare away any evil spirits that may be harmful to the forthcoming crop.

Songs would then be sung, poetry recited, followed by toast being placed in the trees and cider sprinkled around the roots as offerings. Then cider and ale would be drunk and food, such as wassail cake, consumed. A King or Queen for the day would be chosen. These days it's usually an honour given to a child.

So on **Sunday 15th January** we will be wassailing in Simon Pickstone's orchard (huge thanks to Simon), that's in the field between the glamping site and Brackenhill, his house, just up the lane from the school going towards Hill Head. The festivities start at 5.30 p.m. There will be baked potatoes and a vegetarian chilli con carne to eat plus cider and mulled apple juice. Donations towards the cost of this would be appreciated. Ugborians are also invited to bring food and drink to share, as well as something to make a noise with (such as an old saucepan and wooden spoon). Bring a lantern or torch, wrap up warm, and wear wellies or hiking boots. We are most grateful to John Rawlinson of South Brent who has offered to be the Master of Ceremonies. John has extensive knowledge of wassailing (as well as being a very good musician) and is involved in the Stoke Gabriel wassail, easily the biggest and best known event in the area. He will be bringing musicians and singers, but we hope to have our own local musicians as well. Song sheets will be provided so everyone can join in. Families are most welcome, but please note that this event is for villagers only (plus our friends from South Brent). There will be some cover, and a loo will also be available.

If you'd like to bake a cake for the evening recipes can be found online. Look for Somerset Cider Apple cake, Hereford Wassail Cake, Devon Apple cake., etc. Volunteers to help set up also appreciated. For more information please contact either Simon and Alex Pickstone, Rowan and Caroline Martin, or Graham Gilbert.

Contributions

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this Newsletter and to Ivybridge Community College 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 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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