

Ugborough Parish Newsletter

March 2026



What's on

Friday 6 th March and every Friday in March	Ugborough Chair Exercise class meets in Ugborough Village Hall from 1.30-2.30 p.m.	Page 6
Wednesday 11 th March	Ugborough Parish Council meets at Ugborough Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.	Page 9
Saturday 14 th March	Ugborough Sustainable Saturday at Ugborough Village Hall from 10 a.m. to 12 noon	Page 2
Sunday 15 th March	Mothering Sunday service at St. Peter's at 9.30 a.m. with posy making and distribution	Page 2
Monday 16 th March	Ivybridge u3a meets at The Watermark at 2 p.m.	Page 5
Sunday 22 nd March	Messy Church at St. Peter's from 4.30- 6 p.m.	Page 11
Thursday 26 th March	Deadline for responses to Local Government reorganisation consultation	Page 10
Saturday 28 th March	Ugborough Sustainable Saturday at Ugborough Village Hall from 10 a.m. to 12 noon	Page 2

Details of services at Bittaford Methodist Church are on Page 10

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

St Peter's Church – *Sue Johns*

We hope you have all enjoyed the flood lighting of the Church throughout the Christmas season until Candlemas. Such a cheery sight on a dismal January evening! Thanks to all who gave individual donations to help with the electricity costs – and particularly to USS for their kind donation of £125 – wonderful!

The season of Lent is upon us, and the Church's year heads towards Easter.

Watch for details of a Lent Course to be led by Rev David Sayle, which will take place on Wednesdays throughout Lent at The Rectory at Diptford at 7:00pm Everyone is most welcome to attend.

Mothering Sunday is on March 15th – when there will be an informal Morning Prayer at 9:30 in Ugborough, led by the Local Worship Leaders, when we will be making posies for distribution. Do come along – bring some flowers and greenery if you have any. No doubt there'll be Mothering Sunday biscuits to bake too!

Holy week commences on Monday 30th March – and there will be services throughout the week. Watch for details.

We will hold a Maundy Thursday Coffee Morning in Church on April 2nd 10 – 12, with seasonal fare and some fun games!

The North Window Project is gaining momentum as we seek tenders for this repair – for which we have already received a generous donation of £2500 to start the ball rolling from Ugborough Fair Committee. Thank You! Fund Raising and Grant sourcing will start in earnest....

USS- Ugborough Sustainable Saturdays – *Juliet Collis*

Ugborough Sustainable Saturdays – Juliet Collis

USS dates for March are **Saturday 14th and Saturday 28th**, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the Village Hall. Please come along and enjoy the café with proper coffee, Westcountry teas and bacon butties and browse amongst the food and craft stalls.

Volunteers

We would like to thank Angelie and Alastair, our two young volunteers, who have been helping out at USS in the kitchen and with the clearing up at the end of the USS session. Their input is very much appreciated and counts towards their volunteering commitments.

Bric a Brac

Last month Charlie attended USS to sell his surplus pre-loved books and games, which he wanted to clear out prior to decorating his room. This turned out to be a successful pilot stall, and so USS would like to offer the opportunity for anyone of any age to have a stall to sell their pre-loved items. If you are interested in applying for a stall, please contact us on: ugboroughss@gmail.com

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

March 9th *Commonwealth Day*

March 10th *Birthday of Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh*



Erme Valley RDA- Peggy Douglas 07882 286421

Wet, Wet, Wet! This is definitely not a good season for any stock that prefers it in the fields! Our horses are snug and warm in their stables in the worst of this unprecedented wet spell – but it is taking a toll on our forage and bedding stores in particular. We're all hoping for a warm dry Spring!

A huge Thank You to the Devon Vintage Car Drivers Club for their generous donation of a fantastic £1500. It was great to show some of their members around when they presented their Cheque.

We were also delighted to receive £500 in Match Funding from Lloyds Bank, courtesy of Ugborough Fair – thanks so much for nominating us!

And here we go into the 2nd half of the Spring Term! We break for a 2-week Easter Break on Thursday 2nd April.

Ladies' Lunch *Pat Stephens*

The date for the next lunch is Wednesday 8th April at The Ship, Ugborough for 12 noon.

Contact Pat Stephens 07704 113837 to book.

Historical Nugget– Gareth ‘Taff’ Jones

Historical Nugget: 5th March 1936 – On this day the Mk I prototype *Spitfire*, K5054, flew its maiden flight from Eastleigh Aerodrome near Southampton, the pilot was Captain Joseph Summers. The *Spitfire* was derived from R. J. Mitchell’s designed Supermarine Type 224, this aircraft was fitted with a Rolls-Royce *Goshawk* engine and made its first flight in February 1934, however, the Type 224 was a disappointment for Mitchell and his team of designers.

Using their experience with the *Schneider* Trophy (a race for flying boats and seaplanes) Mitchell amended the design giving the aircraft a shorter wingspan, enclosed cockpit, a retractable undercarriage and, most importantly, fitting the new more powerful Rolls-Royce *Merlin* engine giving the early version a top speed of 330 mph. Further tweaking with the propeller increased the speed to 348 mph. In June 1936, the Air Ministry eventually placed an initial order for 310 *Spitfires* at a cost of £1,395,000. Problems with production at Woolston near Southampton meant that the first *Spitfire* did not roll off the assembly line until mid-1938. Once production problems were overcome, on 24 March 1938, the Air Ministry placed an order for a further 200 aircraft.

Three years previously in 1935, the Air Ministry had approached Morris Motors to ask how quickly their Cowley plant at Birmingham could be transferred to aircraft production. Under the “Shadow Factory Plan”, construction began on the Castle Bromwich Aircraft Factory in 1938 situated next to the airfield there. The factory was still in the process of construction as the first *Spitfires* were being built there in June 1940 and the Battle of Britain was about to begin. By the time production ended at Castle Bromwich in June 1945, 12,129 *Spitfires* had been built there, including 1,054 of the latest Mk XVI. In April 1944, a Mk XI *Spitfire*, flown by Sqn Ldr Martindale, achieved a speed of 620 mph (Mach 0.92) during the trial the propeller came off and the aircraft zoom-climbed back to altitude. Martindale blacked out due to the g-force he experienced and when he came around the aircraft was at 40,000 feet and the originally straight wings were slightly swept back. Martindale, glided the *Spitfire* back to the airfield and landed the aircraft safely, he was awarded the AFC.

In February 1952, a Mk XIX *Spitfire* of 81 Squadron based at Hong Kong, climbed to an altitude of over 50,000 feet to record meteorological details, the cabin pressure fell below the safe level and in trying to reduce altitude the aircraft entered an uncontrollable dive, the pilot, Fl Lt Edward Powles, eventually regained control at 3,000 feet and landed the aircraft safely. On inspection of the flight data recorder, the *Spitfire* had recorded a speed of 690 mph (Mach 0.96) the highest speed reached for a propeller driven aircraft. As of 2025, approximately 240 *Spitfires* are preserved around the world of which 70 are airworthy. A truly remarkable aircraft.

Ivybridge u3a - Roy Little

The next Ivybridge u3a General Meeting is on Monday 16th March at 2 p.m. at the Watermark Centre

Guest speaker will be Alex Leger whose talk is entitled "I bet this never happened to you". Alex will recall his fascinating and sometimes bizarre experiences whilst filming around the globe for the BBC. These will include encounters with Amazonian Indians as well as stone-throwing crowds in Cameroon. There were visits to the remotest islands and adventures tackling the Mount Washington cog railway. Almost anything can go wrong at any time.

The event is open to members and those no longer in full-time employment who wish to find out more of what u3a has to offer.

Beryl's Bookworms –

February meeting was our party night! An Italian theme, wonderful food and great games from Sharon. Thanks to all.

Our March book is Bournville by Jonathan Coe



St Mary's Church, North Huish Churches Conservation Trust

NORTH HUISH COMMUNITY GROUP

This group was set up in 2023 with the purpose of organising community events for the residents of North Huish and surrounding villages. The venue is St Mary's Church, North Huish, now closed for regular public worship but kept open to the public, providing a meeting space for the local community. This beautiful Grade 1 listed building is in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust, a national charity protecting historic churches at risk. Funds donated at events held there, help to support the cost of maintaining the building.

Events planned for **2026** are:

- Saturday 11th April: **Coffee Morning with Bring & Buy Cake Sale, 10.30 - 12.30.**
- Friday 19th June: **Quiz Night, 6.45 for 7.00pm.**
- Saturday 26th September: **Harvest Lunch, 12.30 – 2.00pm.**
- Wednesday 11th November: **Armistice Day short Act of Remembrance, 10.50.**
- Sunday 6th December: **Carols by Candlelight, 4.00pm.**

The North Huish Community Group look forward to welcoming you at any of these events.

Ugborough Chair Exercise Class -Peter and Ann Povey

As usual, our Class, which welcomes adults of all ages, meets on Friday afternoons during the School Term, and we charge £5 per Class attended.

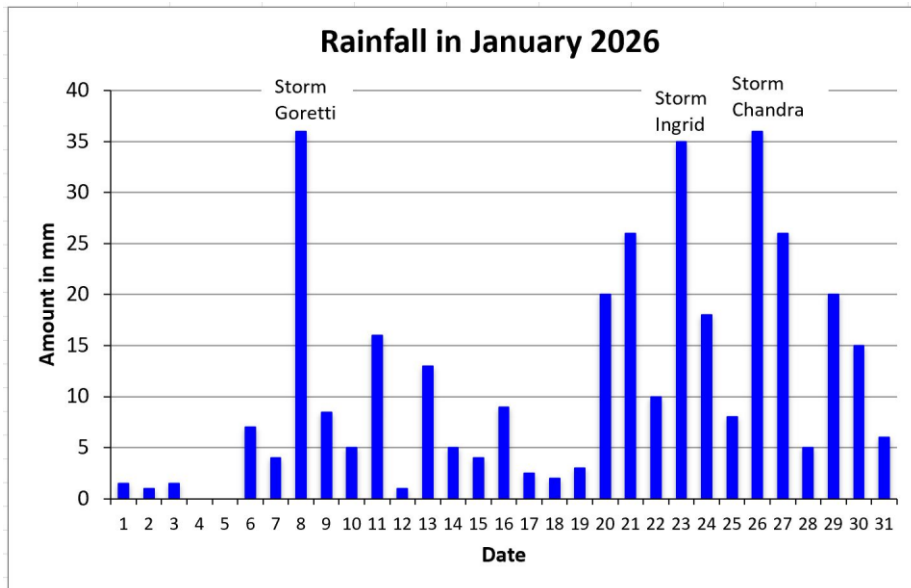
The March Ugborough Chair Exercise Classes will be on Fridays 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th from 1.30 to 2.30 p.m. in Ugborough Village Hall. This term we are concentrating on balance to reduce falls, and safe methods of getting up again if we do fall down.

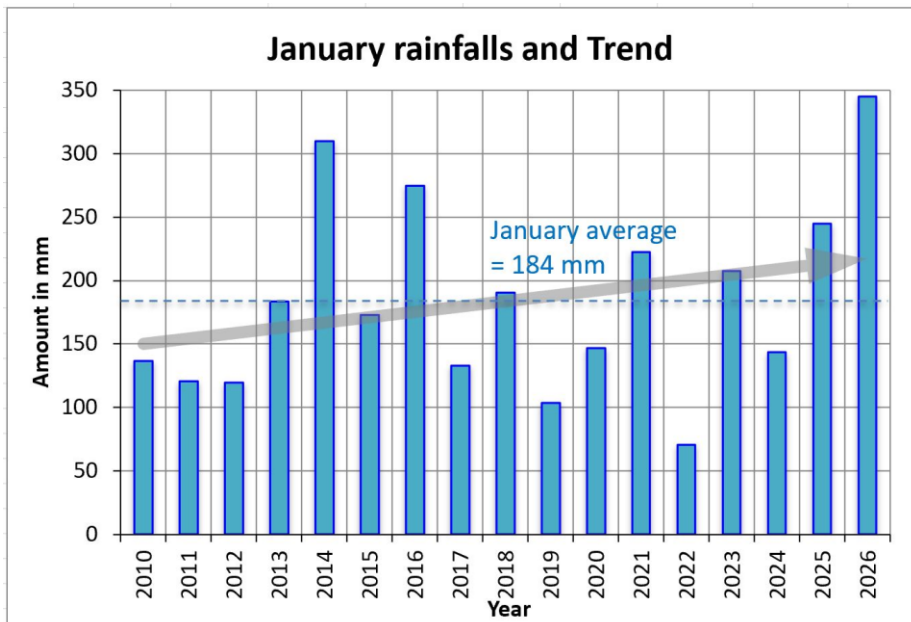
We welcome participants with carers, and carers are free.

If you are thinking you need to do some more exercise, why not pop along to the Village Hall on a Friday afternoon and try us out. We are a friendly group, and we don't just exercise, but we have fun.

Rainfall at Shellwood Hill George Arnison

It didn't start too bad, but January ended up being very, very wet. At Shellwood Hill I recorded 345mm (over 13 ½ ") during the month, almost twice the month's average. This was the wettest January in my now 17-year record, and the second wettest month overall during the last 16 and a bit years (that's 193 months), beaten only by the 359mm of February 2024. We had three named Storms - *Goretti* (whose strong winds caused so much tree damage in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly), *Ingrid* (which saw waves overtopping coastal defences all along our south coast, and led to the closure of Slapton Line) and *Chandra* (which saw severe inland flooding in South and East Devon). A pretty grim month.





Wild Will Theatre Company present

Jerusalem by Jez Butterworth

On April 8th-11th April in Mothecombe Gardens (bring your own chairs, rugs and blankets). Tickets £35 or £20 concessions

For more information and tickets visit the website wildwill.co.uk

Ugborough Parish Council

Clerk: Sally Smale Email: 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 February Meeting.

14 members of the public attended the meeting.

Questions from the public and matters arising from previous meetings:

Questions from the public:

1) A representation of residents from Wrangaton requested that the installation of double yellow lines running from 5 Beacon Terrace into Green Lane be revoked to create more parking spaces in an area where the problem of parking for residents and local businesses is escalating. We support this request and have asked Devon County Council to consider this option.

2) The on-going matter of barking dogs in Ugborough Village was raised. The noise is escalating and many residents are affected during daytime and night-time hours. Cllr DeWynter explained that there are three routes and three departments SHDC is using to consider the matter:

- Planning enforcement to remove the buildings on site (housing the dogs) and installed without planning permission
- Environmental Health – noise pollution
- Licencing – investigating the status of the business on the site.

We would urge all residents to persevere with the noise diaries - the processes are slow, but they are progressing.

3) A resident raised the matter of the Development Construction Management Plan for the Lutterburn Farm development. He reported that SHDC have agreed it is due for review for the next phase of the project but that the area outside the red line of the development plan for construction plant is likely to be approved. The resident requested that, when the matter comes before us, we consider requesting this space be incorporated into the development area and not be an extension.

4) The village sign has disappeared on the entrance to Ugborough Village from Haredon Cross and we have requested a replacement

5) The overgrown hedge on the Bittaford to Ugborough Road continues to cause obstruction to traffic and we have written to the landowners to request that they cut the hedge back before further springtime growth.

6) The matter of dog fouling in Ugborough Village was raised. The Church has also reported that their private bins are being used for the disposal of dog waste. We will be erecting signs on Donkey Lane and near the school reminding people to clear up after their dogs and bin it in the easily accessible and official bins in The Square.

7) Flooding outside the school continues to be a problem and concern has been expressed regarding potential freezing and slippery roads. We have chased this with Devon County Council who confirm that the drains were cleared in July but that a blockage between the drains cannot be dealt with until their 26-27 budget is known and allocated.

8) The Local Government Consultation is now open – please see the separate content for further details. We urge you to have your say.

9) We will be meeting with Devon County Council Highways to consider speeding problems on the A3121, but we know that there is reluctance to introduce any speed restrictions for various policy reasons.

Report from South Hams District Council Councillors Alison DeWynter and Vic Abbott

The [full report](#) is available on the website:

SUMMARY:

- South Hams Community Awards
- Shape the future of Devon Libraries
- Proposed new Aldi store

- Junior Park Run planned for Filham Park
- Asset refurbishment
- Citizens Advice Newsletter
- Reporting dog fouling
- Ivybridge Leisure Centre Open Day

Planning

We supported the application for works to Trees protected by TPO at 12 Sumner Road, Bittaford and received details of 6 decisions made by South Hams District Council and Dartmoor National Park Planning.

We discussed email correspondence from the developer to Cllr Hosking regarding the Lutterburn Farm Development. The developer states:

“You and the Parish Council should also remember that the Parish Council met with me, at their request, in the middle of the site and the Parish Council asked me to bring a scheme for housing forward. George Beeble was chair then, I have brought a scheme forward as requested. It is not mass housing, it is high quality low volume, self/custom build, with the minimal amount of impact.

It is about time the Parish Council start to support what they requested.” This is a misrepresentation of the matter. Council had not requested that a scheme be brought forward and, as is standard practice when approached by anybody seeking Council views on planned development, had advised to submit an application to SHDC (The planning authority). As a parish council we have merely acted as consultees in respect of this application.

Finance

We agreed new burial ground fees to take effect from 1st April 2026 and are pleased to grant fund Ugborough Newsletter £500

Highways and Maintenance

1. Flood working group – Cllr Hart has liaised with the individual residents regarding the options offered by DCC and work will progress towards achieving the best possible solutions. A [report outlining the issues](#) is available on the website.

2. We considered various rough estimates for new and replacement equipment for the Bittaford Play Area and agreed that a 50/50 distribution of the S106 monies towards the play area and the refurbishment of the Moorhaven Tennis Courts would enable both projects to proceed with minimal (but some) match funding from each of us. On completion of the tennis court refurbishment (if the grant application is successful) the tennis courts will be free to use for all residents of Ugborough Parish.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 11th March 2026, 7.30 p.m. in Ugborough 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 parishclerk@ugboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk

Local Government Reorganisation Consultation.

HAVE YOUR SAY NOW

This is your chance to have your say on who will provide the vital local services that we all rely on when Devon becomes a unitary authority:

adults' and children's social care, road maintenance, libraries, waste disposal and rubbish collection, housing and planning and environmental health

The greater the response from all of us the less chance there will be of governance being done to us by officers in Whitehall who do not have local knowledge of our County and its communities.

All the background information and the link to respond online can be found on the government website:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-devon-plymouth-and-torbay/proposals-for-local-government-reorganisation-in-devon-plymouth-and-torbay

HOW TO RESPOND

There are various ways in which you can make your voice heard before the deadline on **26th March 2026**:

- 1) Complete the online survey.
- 2) Send a written response to:

LGR Consultation, Fry Building 2NE, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2 Marsham Street. London. SW1P 4DF

- 3) Email Igrconsultationresponse@communities.gov.uk

Remember to include your name and indicate in which council area your home or organisation address is located: Devon County Council

Bittaford Methodist Chapel *Chris Phillips* 07899934743

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

Sunday 1st March **Revd D Youngs**

Sunday 8th March **Mike Cade**

Sunday 15th March **Mike Cade**

Sunday 22nd March **D Smart**

Sunday 29th March **N Norris**

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 March 1 st	All Age Worship lead by Local Worship Leaders
Sunday March 8 th	Holy Communion
Sunday March 15 th Mothering Sunday	Morning Praise led by Local Worship Leaders
Sunday March 22 nd	Holy Communion Messy Church from 4.30-6 p.m.
Sunday March 29 th	Mission Community service at Diptford at 11 a.m. No service at Ugborough

Hand gel is available and please respect others' space.

Sunday 22nd March 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

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.

Oh Yes It Was! -Sue Johns

OK, OK so I'm biased – but around 300 punters also agreed that Ugborough Dramatic Society's latest production was one of the Best Ever Pantomimes Ugborough Village Hall has ever seen!

I can only summarise that this was a result of a phenomenal amount of months of hard work, attention to detail, hours of rehearsals and above all exemplary **Team Work**. Every single participant was committed to producing 5 successful performances -

from the Director, with a finger on every tab, the scene creators, the extremely talented Main Characters, the Chorus – with a special mention to the Juniors and their Parents, the Choreographer, Costume Creators, Sound and Lighting Guys, the Prompt, Backstage Team, Bar Tender, Front of House, Draw Organisers, Tidying Uppers, Tea Makers, and all the Setting Up and Dismantling Persons!

And a particular mention to the Electrician who ensured the Show Went On despite a major sound system failure one night.

Thanks to Ugborough and Stowford Schools for loan of invaluable props and of course to the Village Hall Committee for the hire and willing assistance. Also to the School, Parish Council, Yoga and Exercise Class for kindly forgoing their Venue when necessary. Any profits will benefit Village Charities.

If you didn't make it this time – you missed a treat! Look out for the next Production!

Village services.

The Post Office continues its service at Ugborough Church on Thursday mornings, and coffee and cake will be available from 10.15 – 11.45 a.m. Do pop in for a chat.

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

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.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.