

Ugborough Parish Newsletter

September 2026



What's on

Wednesday September	9 th	Ugborough Parish Council meets at 7.30 p.m. at Ugborough Village Hall	Page 15
Friday September and following Fridays	11 th and	Ugborough Chair Exercise class meets at 1.30-2.30 p.m. at Ugborough Village Hall	Page 11
Saturday September	12 th	Ugborough Sustainable Saturday from 10-12 noon at Ugborough Village Hall	Page 6
Monday September	21 st	Ivybridge u3a meets at 2 p.m. at The Watermark, Ivybridge	Page 6
Saturday September	26 th	Ugborough Sustainable Saturday from 10-12 noon at Ugborough Village Hall Harvest Lunch at North Huish church from 12.30 to 2 p.m.	Page 6 Page 4
Sunday September	27 th	Benefice Farewell service of Holy Communion at 11 a.m. at Diptford church	Page 2
Advance notice- Saturday 3 rd October		EVRDA Barn Dance at Bowcombe House from 5.30 p.m. to midnight	Page 8

Details of services at Bittaford Methodist Church are on Page 15

Details of services at St. Peter's Church, Ugborough are on Page 2 and 16

Please note the revised times.

St Peter's Church –

A letter from our Rector- Rev'd David Sayle

Dear All,

On Sunday, 28th June, the following announcement was made in the Three Rivers Mission Community.

“The Bishop of Crediton is pleased to announce that, subject to the completion of the statutory formalities, the Rev'd Philip David Sayle has been appointed as Team Rector Designate of the benefice of South Molton with Nymet Saint George, Chittlehamholt, Chittlehampton with Umberleigh, Filleigh, Kingsnympton and Warkleigh with Satterleigh, in the Diocese of Exeter.

David is currently Rector of Diptford with North Huish, Ermington, Halwell, Harbertonford, Moreleigh and Ugborough in the Diocese of Exeter.

He will be moving to North Devon with his wife Heather, and details of his licensing service will be announced in due course.”

This has now been confirmed as Wednesday 21st October.

Yes, I'm moving to a new role in a new place! The move is set for the end of September, so we still have some time before we leave. It feels like the right time to move—sad as we will be to leave—and start a new adventure.

We're not moving far; we're just a little way up the M5, close to Exmoor, Barnstaple and the North Devon coast.

Throughout the month of September, the Ugborough Church service pattern will be:
Sunday 6th September 4.30 p.m. All Age Service incorporating craft activities, followed by a special tea.

Sunday 13th September 9.30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion.

Sunday 20th September 9.30 a.m. Morning Praise led by the Local Worship Leaders.

Sunday 27th September 11 a.m. Benefice Farewell Service of Holy Communion at Diptford Church.

I am in the process of compiling a service pattern for October, November and December and this will be published very shortly. **What I can say at this stage is please be assured Church services at Ugborough will continue.**

And finally, as Heather and I have always said, 'the kettle is always on'.

Thank you and God Bless,

David

(A huge thank you to David for all the care he has given to us in Ugborough over the years. We sincerely wish him and Heather a very happy and fulfilling time in his new role. We will miss him immensely.)

Other church news- *Sue Johns*

PLEASE NOTE- Something for Everyone!

From the first Sunday of the month on 5th September, the All-Age Service at Ugborough Church will be at the changed time of 4.30 p.m.

During the service there will be craft Activities with a Tea to follow for all, and this will be the pattern for every first Sunday of the Month for the foreseeable future.

This Service will replace the Messy Church Service which used to be on the last Sunday of every month also at 4:30.

Do hope to see you there!

Looking back at July we must first remember The Fair Concert! A great showcase of local musical talent of all ages from Ugborough School Children to the oldest Community Choir Members performing to a very relaxed convivial appreciative (and kind!) audience. A fantastic £700 was raised for Church Fabric Fund!

The Church Cake Stall at the Fair was also a Best Ever, realising £520! Thanks to Flo, Val & Yvonne for organising, setting up and staffing.

Several of us enjoyed Jennie's Cream Tea on a Sunday afternoon in July, by the shady brook in her garden. £130 was raised for the Church Fabric Fund. Thanks to all who made Donations for St Peter's Gift Day at the end of June. Several church and community members contributed much needed funds which will help with the continued maintenance of this historic church. Thank you!

How lovely to welcome Bethan Reade (daughter of Ella and Charles Reade) and Thomas Casson to the Church on (another) glorious day, for their wedding in July; welcomed by a peel from the Bells that Charles played such a vital part in their installation. And with flowers from our local Florist. It felt like a proper community celebration!

Messy Church certainly Went Wild at Dunwell Farm at the end of Term, with 38 Adults and Children just enjoying outdoor activities, making kites with Sean, and sharing the BBQ Feast.

We are delighted to report that the North Aisle Window Repair has been completed! There was some extra work necessary to prevent further water ingress – but it has been a successful repair.

The total costs amounted to £12,000 including Builders, and Architects Fees and VAT.

Unfortunately, Churches are now unable to apply for a Grant to reclaim the VAT on such Fabric Repairs as has been the case until this year. Grants are available – but they seem only to be allocated to Churches from deprived areas, and our application has been unsuccessful.

So, the approx. £2000 VAT is an extra cost that we had to find.

However, thanks to generosity of the Community we have been able fund and complete the work. The Following Donations and Events have all helped to raise the Funds over the last couple of years. AMAZING!

Ugborough Fair Committee	£2,500
UDS	£500
Ugfest	£1,200
Gift Day x 2 (half share)	£1,500
Quizes x 2	£1,520
Ceilidhs x 2	£1,220
Open Gardens	£886
Jennie's Fundraisers	£300
Fair Concerts x 2	£1329
Various specific Donations	£200
TOTAL	£11,388

Unsung Heroes!

The Community is eternally grateful for the loan of the Field in Donkey Lane for use as Car Park for so many Village Events; from the Fair to Weddings, from Concert Goers to Funerals.

So - a grateful shout out to Adrian Rogers, Tiffany and Richards Stephens for always being so obliging; unlocking and locking the gate and moving their stock to another field when necessary.

It is much appreciated.

Ladies' Lunch *Pat Stephens*

The date for the next lunch is Wednesday October 14th at The Ship, Ugborough for 12 noon.

Contact Pat Stephens 07704 113837 to book.

The North Huish Community Group will be holding a Harvest Lunch at North Huish Church on Saturday 26th September from 12.30-2 p.m.

This will be a ploughman's lunch plus a dessert and a soft drink, all included in the £10 price.

Everyone welcome, no tickets necessary. Proceeds will go to the Churches Conservation Trust.

Donations of non-perishable items for the local food bank will be gratefully received.

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.

DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER NOVEMBER! – Sean Marcus

The more formal occasion of Remembrance will occur on Sunday 8th November in our fair village, but it was also suggested that, later on in the week, we remember the occasion by getting together to enjoy a concert of the songs from the 40's - and end up with equally loud participation in various Sea Shanties. How, when and where, you say?

You can enjoy an evening at our Village Hall, with a young professional solo singer Nick, from Bristol, to help us keep right in tune with those great songs. We've already heard Nick in Plymouth and thought he was ideal for our concert. He even included 'Whisky in the Jar' as a 'folk shanty' (yes, a folk shanty!) and boy, did it go down well with the crowd. I have asked him to perform that song again! You'll like it! But most of you will know the lyrics of the Sea Shanties we heard in Plymouth, and you'll all be ready and willing to belt them out on the night. Plus, many 'Time to Remember' songs before/after the break.

So, book Saturday, 14th November, in your diaries/phones, 7 p.m. in the Village Hall, and expect to be eating a Pasty (organised by Philomena) when you're not singing. There will be the usual Bar (courtesy of Taff), to keep your singing voices going strong! We intend to have most lyrics of Nick's songs on the Hall screen so there's no reason not to enjoy yourselves. You'll have the usual break in the middle of the evening to wet your whistles as required.

Don't ask me what, but Clive and Helen are planning a little diversion for us all during the evening! They've not even briefed me!

Tickets soon from Sean at 28 Lutterburn Street or on the night, price £12.00 per person, and you get a hot Pasty during the evening! Can't be bad!

You'll remember your time at this concert!

All proceeds to local charities.

USS- Ugborough Sustainable Saturdays - Juliet Collis

USS will be back on Saturday 12th September after a summer break, and we look forward to welcoming back our producers, volunteers and USS supporters. We will be in the village hall this autumn, every other Saturday from 10am – 12 noon, selling a selection of delicious foods and local crafts.

As a reminder for some and as an introduction to new parishioners, USS is an Ugborough Parish community organisation, which holds fortnightly markets, providing opportunities for local producers and makers from Ugborough and its surrounding parishes to sell their produce. Our USS café runs alongside the market and is a great place for people to get together over a coffee or tea and catch up with news in the local community.

Any surplus that USS generates is reinvested into USS itself or is used to make contributions to community good causes within the parish.

Student volunteering opportunity

USS is able to offer a volunteering opportunity for a student to help out at USS. Duties include helping to set up the hall at 9am and then assisting in the café. If anyone is interested or would like further information, then please email us.

September dates: Saturdays 12th and 26th.

October dates: Saturdays 10^h and 24th.

For more information email ugboroughss@gmail.com

Ceremonial Flying of the Flag

September 8th

Accession Day

September 15th

Birthday of Henry (Harry), the Duke of Sussex



Ivybridge u3a - Roy Little

The Ivybridge u3a General Meeting will be held on Monday 21st September at 2 p.m. at the Watermark Centre

The Guest speaker, Nick Clyburn, will reveal....

“An Expert’s Guide to Air Traffic Confusion “

Nick is a Squadron Leader and former RAF officer and air traffic controller.

He has over 40 years of experience of military and civil aircraft management.

Nick will amusingly orientate the audience in order to demystify the confusing World of Air Traffic Control. Safe landing guaranteed.

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

Erme Valley RDA- Peggy Douglas 07882 286421

A few thanks from July!

We had an outstanding turnout for our July Coffee Morning Week – and raised over £2000! The Brook was buzzing with appreciative friends old and new all week - whose support in these tough economic times is invaluable! Thank You All!

The RDA National Championships were the hottest ever! Class times were juggled and indoor venues used when possible, to accommodate the welfare of horses, riders, coaches and volunteers. Our 23 riders rode brilliantly – and we came away with many well-deserved rosettes for not only riding – but art work too.

How proud were we to welcome the King's Representative Lord Lieutenant David Fursdon to the Brook in July, where he presented the Group with the **Kings Award for Voluntary Service**?! This award honours outstanding local volunteer groups that benefit their community and is the equivalent of an MBE; it is awarded for life. Such an accolade! And entirely down to our dedicated, loyal group of Volunteers. The Lord Lieutenant presented the Award with the words: It takes a really good organisation to win this Award, and this group are certainly up there amongst the best I've seen. The variety of what they do here is very impressive, and so many needs are being met. I like the way it all fits together and the Volunteers are such a cohesive group.'

We held our Annual AGM and BBQ at the end of term. Thanks to the Douglas Family for setting up and sweltering over a hot BBQ, and to all those who provided salads and cakes.

Our newly appointed Officers remain: Peggy Douglas- Chair, Jane Lankester- Vice-Chair Sue Johns- Treasurer and Jane Van Goethem- Minute Secretary. Ann Baker resigned as a Director after a goodly number of years of loyal service – Thank You Ann! and we welcomed Katherine Woods into the fold.

Most of the horses are enjoying a well-earned summer break away from The Brook during August; whilst the work continues to carry out vital maintenance jobs back at the ranch. Volunteers have been meeting twice a week during August to clean, brush, tidy, mend and paint in readiness for the new Term which starts on September 7th.

We wish our stellar Volunteer Sarah Chambers the best of luck as she pedals from London to Brighton in aid of Funds on September 13th. Good Luck Sarah!

Just Giving: [Sarah Chambers is fundraising for Erme Valley RDA](#) to donate. Thank you.

And Then.....Our BIG FUNDRAISER happens on October 3rd!

Erme Valley Riding for the Disabled

BARN DANCE

3rd October: 5:30 til midnight

At Bowcombe House, Ugborough

With Unshuffled, Rick the Stick & Ollie Whitfield

Line Dancing & The Rodeo Bull

Hog Roast, Ram Roast & Veggie Options

Games & Photo Booths

Fully Stocked Bar & Huge Raffle

Tickets £25: 15&U £12.50

Tickets on Sale NOW:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-erme-valley-barn-dance-tickets-1997390611086>

It's a Small World. *Graham Gilbert*

Standing atop Three Barrows on a hot Dartmoor evening it's hard to believe what a small world we live in. Looking out over the never-ending moor flanked by its once lush green fields, then out across the glittering sea way out to the horizon you think "We have so much! Isn't it wonderful! Even Plymouth looks great from here! (*Steady on! Ed.*)"

But imagine you're on the Space Station, about 250 miles above the Earth, orbiting the planet once every 92.9 minutes, about the time it takes to drive from Ugborough to Truro (on a good day). You look down on the blue mote amidst the mass of the universe, and you realise how very small it really is, and that's all there is. Everything we have, everything we can use is on or in that tiny ball. 8 billion of us humans rely on it for life, as do the trillions of other creatures we share our home with.

I share these and other thoughts with my walking companion: it's good to talk. "Why is it," I ask, "that there is so little wildlife on the Moor. Lots of cattle, sheep, horses, ticks, but little else?"

He points to a bird in the distance, "There you are, wildlife!" We try to identify the species but can only come up with the ubiquitous "LBJ" (Little Brown Job). "By the way, have you seen any House Martins in the village this year?"

"Not that I can recall," I replied. "Did you know, and not a lot of people know this, that the UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world? Over the last

100 years we've lost nearly half of our native species. Now one in six species faces extinction. Our lakes and rivers are in a terrible state, flooding - when it happens - is more severe, insects and wildlife are declining."¹

"Hmm, Very depressing," he says. Then he points to a contrail. "I gave up flying a while back. Too much competition from aeroplanes!"

I groaned inwardly at his sense of humour.

"Seriously though, I wanted to reduce my carbon footprint."

"Good man! Well, bet you didn't know that carbon dioxide levels are now higher than at any point in at least 800,000 years, and still rising every year? It's a myth that we're world leaders in mitigating climate change. If we include aviation, shipping and imports, UK emissions have fallen by only around 20% since 1990 - well under 1% a year - which means that our emissions take up three times our fair share of the global figure."

"You don't half bang on!" He looked at me askance and tried to change the subject.

"By the way, how's your allotment doing?"

"It's a constant battle: either too dry, or too wet and then the slugs are rampant..."

He interrupted, "I've never seen a rampant slug! They're not built for rampant!"

Ignoring him I continued, "But the worst thing is the hot summers. Look at this one. It's the first time since records began, or even wax cylinders, that we've had four consecutive months each with a daytime temperature over 35°C. If this summer is anything like 2022, when we had 40°C, we can expect 3000 excess deaths in the UK. But wetter winters are a big problem too, you know. You can't spend as much time on the allotment as you need to. UK winter rainfall is up around 10% since 1980! That is 7.3 billion cubic metres of extra water each winter."⁴

"I can't imagine what that means; it's too abstract a number! How much does our local reservoir hold, for example?"

"Hang on, I'll check the internet." I fumbled around in my rucksack and finally found my phone. Seconds later.... "It holds 1,313,000 cubic metres, so it's a lot of Avon Reservoirs! And it's all happening a lot faster than recent climate projections"

I looked longingly at the stressed fields of Devon. "Look, the climate that gave us reliable harvests is gone. Extremes of heat and drought, floods and fires striking together worldwide are becoming normal. Before climate change, a major corn harvest failure might happen once every 16 years, add another 1.5°C to our average temperature & this can be expected once every 3 years, and every other year at 2°C. Look how dependent we are on imports. We import around 50% of our food, much from climate-stressed regions like the Med. So extreme weather abroad drives up food prices and increases hardship at home."⁵

“Hmmm.” After a short silence he said, “I guess you know all about the oceans and the AMOC?”

“I’m not interested in current affairs,” I quipped.

“So you’ll not know that the biggest risk for the UK is the failure of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)?”

“Smartypants!” I thought, but asked “What’s that, then?”

“It’s the ocean current that keeps our climate mild. It’s already weakening and 2°C more warming could see the UK transformed into an unrecognisable place. There would be winters of -20°C in London and -30°C in Edinburgh, with Arctic sea ice likely to reach down as far as East Anglia. But there would also be hotter summers, combined with severe water shortages due to significantly lower rainfall. This would end large-scale agriculture in the UK.³”

“So, not good news for my allotment, then?”

“Not good at all!”

I shook my head. “Well, something needs to be done about all this. Inflation would have been significantly lower if we had decarbonised power, heat and food systems years ago; delay has already made households poorer. And we’ve known about this for ages. Faster transition to a green economy is cheaper. I’ve read that research shows that a rapid energy transition saves \$12 trillion globally compared to sticking with fossil fuels: more than twice the savings of a slow transition.⁶”

“You’ve made me think,” my friend mused. “Seems to me that if we took the right action on climate, we could save shedloads of money. I mean, clean air, active travel, warm homes and plant-rich diets cut emissions and disease together, which must be good news for us and the NHS. Life would be so much more sustainable.⁷”

“Good point, well made! Is it time for a break now? I could really do with a cuppa! Shall I break out the Thermos?”

“Excellent idea! Just look at that lovely sunset!”

[To read or watch ten of the UK’s leading authorities talking about nature, climate and weather extremes, tipping points, economics, food security, national security, health, and energy transition visit <https://www.nebriefing.org/expert-briefings>.]

1. Prof. Nathalie Seddon. Professor of Biodiversity at the University of Oxford.

2. Prof. Kevin Anderson. Professor of Energy and Climate Change at the University of Manchester (UK) and a visiting Professor at Uppsala University (Sweden).

3. Prof. Tim Lenton OBE. Professor of Climate Change and Earth System Science at the University of Exeter.

4. Prof. Hayley Fowler. Professor of Climate Change Impacts in the School of Engineering at Newcastle University.

5. Prof. Paul Behrens. British Academy Global Professor at the Oxford Martin School, University of Oxford.

6. Angela Francis. Policy expert in green economics.

7. Professor Hugh Montgomery. Director of the Centre for Human Health at University College London.

Historical Nugget– Gareth ‘Taff’ Jones

Historical Nugget: 18th September 1978 – The Camp David Accords. On this day, at the US Presidential country retreat in Maryland a peace deal, brokered by President Jimmy Carter, was agreed between Egypt and Israel. President Anwar Sadat of Egypt had been the initiator of a peace deal with Israel since the early 1970s and in November 1977 provoked controversy throughout the Middle East states by announcing his intention to visit Israel and speak before their Parliament, the Knesset. An invitation was forthcoming and in his speech Sadat spoke of his views for peace, the Palestinian refugee problem and Israel’s occupation of the Sinai and other territories.

In September 1978, Sadat, and the Israeli Prime Minister, Menachem Begin, travelled with their negotiating teams to Camp David and continued negotiations between 5th and 17th September, the two leaders having little direct contact with each other. Carter spent his time meeting Sadat and Begin separately in order to achieve a bigger deal than the two leaders had proposed. Carter even took the two men to nearby Gettysburg making a point that struggle can be overcome.

The Agreement allowed for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank and Gaza after the election of a self-governing authority, a Palestinian state was firmly rejected. The UN rejected the Accords as it was brokered without the involvement of the UN and the PLO. Camp David can be seen as a partial success as it brought peace to Egypt and Israel whilst provoking many adjoining countries, Egypt was suspended from the Arab League from 1979-1989. Sadat and Begin were both awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1978. In October 1981 Sadat was assassinated by members of a jihad organisation during the annual victory parade in Cairo. The problem of Palestine continues to this day with intransigence on both sides of the political debate.

Ugborough Chair Exercise Class –Peter and Ann Povey

The Exercise Class restarts for the Autumn Term on Friday, 11th September in Ugborough Village Hall, offering appropriate exercise for people for whom other classes are too strenuous. It meets weekly on Friday afternoons from 1.30 -2.30 p.m., until the Christmas Holidays, with a Half Term break, at a cost of £6 per Class attended. Our physiotherapists Michelle, and Sine (a Hebridean Gaelic forename pronounced “Sheena”), concentrate on helping to get our joints and muscles stronger and more supple for daily living tasks such as walking, standing and sitting, reaching up and down, and balancing safely to reduce falls. Adults of all ages are welcome. We particularly 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, we have fun. Enquiries to Tel: 01752 691654 or Email: povey.ann@googlemail.com , or povey.peter@googlemail.com
Dates for September: Fridays, 11th, 18th and 25th.

Beryl's Bookworms – Jane Johns

The Names by Florence Knapp

The Names is a debut novel by this author. It follows the lives of one boy who was given three different names by his domestically abused mother.

It's a sliding doors book full of what ifs. Beautifully written, and very evocative, nearly all the Bookworms enjoyed it, giving a score of 3 to 4.5 and averaging 4.

Cora takes her young daughter with her to register the boy's birth, and the little girl wants him to be called Bear, as she thinks it's a warm and cuddly name, Cora herself favours Julian and the father wants him to be named Gordon after himself and his father. The book is an exploration of whether one lives up or down to one's given name, and how the name affects the perception of and development of the character of the recipient.

Each choice is explored in detail, and each name is visited every seven years as he grows up. The father is a much loved and respected GP, with his patients being completely unaware of his nasty and manipulative behaviour at home, even Cora's mother has no idea of the truth, and the effect on this young family. The book goes on to adulthood and the life-choices made by the different versions of Bear, Julian and Gordon.

It's a challenging read, but a real page-turner. Some found it a bit confusing with all the different threads, and some people felt that it was all a bit unlikely – but then you could say that of many stories! It's certainly a book that this reviewer found stayed fresh in the memory.

On a completely different note, we had our summer party this month, traditionally held at Sue Webster's home at Dartington, but this year for the first time at Dunwell. Of course, it was a beautiful evening, and as ever the food was wonderful, with everyone bringing something tasty. We had previously decided that our "entertainment" would be for everyone to find a poem or song with their name in it! This provoked much laughter and included Norman and Norma (by The Divine Comedy), and A Boy Named Sue (by Johnny Cash) it was a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable evening and huge thanks to Sue for hosting.

Our next book is Really Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt.



Your Stars Tonight The sun has been in all our thoughts in the last month, and it was in mine as I sat on the parched grass by the River Erme about 1 mile downstream from the Ivybridge sprawl. I remembered going to an environmental conference in the mid 1990's when the then Environment Minister (John Gummer – a confident character who publicly fed his daughter with best British beef during the BSE crisis) talked about the latest predictions from the newly founded Met Office Hadley Centre for Climate Change in Exeter. He caught my attention because he seemed genuinely shocked and scared by their predictions of 2 degree rise in temperature by 2025. Welcome to summer 2026!



I knew that I too could make a correct prediction - for I was at Heaton Bridge weir testing the river water quality – and I knew from my experience in the drought of 2025 what I was going to find. And so it was – levels of phosphate 20 times higher than normal. I also could predict the culprit – the Ivybridge Sewage Treatment Works just opposite the Ivybridge Tennis Courts. Later I took a sample from the river just below the outfall and was not surprised to find a phosphate reading of 2.5 ppm - very similar to Heaton Bridge. The Environment Agency standard for “good water” is 0.1 ppm. Ironically in August the EA gave out its latest figures on water quality in England and announced that 14.3% of our surface water is good. Looked at another way it means that more than eight out of ten of your skinny dip favourite spots are not! The targets to achieve 100% good quality was previously set for December 2027 – bring on of green fairies! A gloomy forecast currently predicts achievement by 2063.

I report the results to the EA pollution hotline and await the response – I can predict that too. – SW water will smugly point out that phosphate is not listed on their permit; so they are breaking no law, while the EA will shuffle their feet and point out the phosphate limits are currently only guidance. And so life goes on with the Ivybridge sewage works pumping out a phosphate rich soup and relying on the River Erme to flush it out of sight past Mothercombe beach.

One set of predictions that the human race has been good at since Babylonian times is predicting the timing of an eclipse of the sun. Our recent event was bang on time and provided a peculiarly pleasant break from the heat. Ugborough folk seemed to respond with their usual enthusiasm for a community party across the gardens and fields around the parish. A strange sensation watching the invisible moon silently devouring the sun and then rebirthing it. I had expected it to be much darker at the maximum but as the shadows lengthened the cooling was much appreciated. Colanders appeared to be the of choice in 2026 with improvised pin hole camera (Jaffa Cake cartons seemed popular) coming a close second. Readers may remember that I have invited a Chinese SmartScope into my confidence on astronomical matters and she is proving to be not only amazing in the dark but also able (with suitable dark filters of course) to provide stunning photographs of the sun – complete with sunspots – during the eclipse.

Later that evening she and I sat in the garden. I was hoping to spot just a few of the fabled Perseids meteor shower (no such luck) and we chatted about the galaxies and nebula we could photograph in the crystal-clear night sky above our heads where the Milky Way looked like a faint silver path spanning from the eastern to western horizon and thousands of stars glitter in the cool night air. By chance I decided to use the SmartScope to image a very faint comet- 220 McNaught. But when I found it, I had a shock – not only was it over 1000 times brighter than predicted but it had grown a tail. Later internet search found that a couple of days previously it had a spot of major cometary indigestion which resulted in a plume of gas and dust being blasted from

the comet's surface. This created a blaze of reflected light and a handsome tail. Alas - in a few days it will dissipate and Comet 220 McNaught will retire to its normal cosmic obscurity.

So many things can be predicted, but there is a special thrill from the unexpected. Who knows? Perhaps SW Water will upgrade all their sewage plants by December 2027 and swimming in the pristine River Erme will become a non-hazardous recreational activity as it was 50 years ago.

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 July Meeting.

(News from the August meeting will be in the next newsletter as the meeting was held too late in the month for inclusion here)

Two members of the public attended the meeting.

Questions from the Public and Matters Arising

We had received a request for the refurbishment of the bus shelter in Ugborough Square and will consider this at our August meeting.

As a member of the public has kindly offered to do some maintenance on the bench in Ugborough Square we agreed the purchase of a tin of Sandolin.

Residents on Shute Lane have expressed concern regarding speeding cyclists on the Lane in Wrangaton and we will put a request for consideration on social media.

Cllr May has removed the weeds and overhanging brambles restricting accessibility on the pavement between Beacon View, Bittaford and the village bus stop

Reports from Devon County Council and South Hams District Council Councillors

(Devon County Councillor Dan Thomas had sent his apologies)

Cllr Vic Abbott (Devon County Council) gave an update:

He brought to our attention that the section of National Cycle Route 2 that runs on the road from North Filham to Bittaford is to be erased by DCC – we will be contacting DCC to express our concern regarding this decision and ask for an explanation.

SHDC Cllr Alison DeWynter's report is on our website. Summary:

1. Upcoming Consultation on the Next Local Plan
2. Ivybridge Car Park Renovation
3. Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy: Opportunities and events
4. Reduce the Risk of Wildfires
5. Crisis and Resilience Fund
6. Land Transfer – Hope Wood
7. Citizens Advice are Recruiting in the South Hams
8. Renter's Rights Act Came into Effect on 1 May 26
9. Stay Safe Around Water This Summer
10. Volunteer Drivers

Planning

We considered 7 planning applications and had received 5 decisions that had been made by South Hams District Council and Dartmoor National Park since the last meeting– further information can be seen in the minutes on our website.

Bittaford Play Area Update

The tree and hedge maintenance work has taken place, the path will be repaired when the dry spell is over and newly planted grass seeds have a better chance of survival, the new equipment is due to be installed w/c 26 Oct. 2026

Moorhaven Tennis Courts

We would like to thank Moorhaven Management Committee for their efforts in securing funding to refurbish the tennis courts on the estate. These courts are now open to anybody who lives in Ugborough Parish and so please do go along and make use of this wonderful facility.

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 9th September 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

Bittaford Methodist Chapel *Chris Phillips 07899934743*

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

Sunday September 6th Revd D Youngs

Sunday September 13th Mike Cade

Sunday September 20th Mike Cade

Sunday September 27th Dawn Martin.

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.

A message from Lyn Waycott- Free Dung, all bagged, at Peek Mill Quarry Ugborough PL21 0LA

Services at St Peter's Church, Ugborough

Please see below (and pages 2 and 3) for important information about times of services.

Date	Service
Sunday September 6th at 4.30 p.m.	All Age service with craft activities and tea for all
Sunday September 13 th at 9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday September 20 th at 9.30 a.m.	Morning Praise led by Local Worship Leaders
Sunday September 27th at 11 a.m.	Benefice Farewell Service of Holy Communion at Diptford Church. (No service at Ugborough)

Hand gel is available and please respect others' space.

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.

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>

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The Editor's decision is final.