

Uley, Owlpen & Nympsfield

May 2026

Village News

Supporting Church, Community and Local Business



uleyvillagenews@gmail.com

Uley Parish Council

clerk@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Councillors

Juliet Browne (Chair)	j.browne@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	01453 860710
Tony Mills (Vice Chair)	t.mills@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	07753 739636
Vicky Boroughs	va.boroughs@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	07814 108311
Jo Dee	j.dee@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	01453 452844
Geoff Keen	g.keen@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	07903 193413
Tracy Mason-Fayle	t.mason-fayle@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	01453 861183
Sean Sage	s.sage@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	07484 302871

District Councillor

Martin Percy	cllr.martin.pearcy@stroud.gov.uk
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County Councillor

Richard Dean	richard.dean@gloucestershire.gov.uk
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Stroud District Council - Neighbourhood Warden

Andrew Beamish	andrew.beamish@stroud.gov.uk	07834 419332
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Volunteer Footpath Officer

Bill Bramley	bramley@fastmail.fm	01453 861249
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Police Community Support Officer

PCSO Abbigail Barker	Abbigail.Barker@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk	07811 292244
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Community Wellbeing

Email: communitywellbeing.stroud@nhs.net Tel: 0345 863 8323

Uley Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council meets in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. You are very welcome to attend. Details of the meetings can be found on the notice boards at either end of the village or on the Uley village website at: www.uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk



The latest edition of the Messenger is available to download from:

<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/parish-resources/communications/#messenger>

Nursery Provision at Uley School

- Exciting News!

Since the playgroup closed, we have been very aware of the lack of pre-school facilities in the village. This is obviously a problem for young families, but also for the school: If parents seek pre-school provision elsewhere then they usually also follow on to send their children to a school elsewhere as well, threatening the long term viability of our village school. We have been considering different options to address this issue. In October last year we extended our intake to include three year olds - who could attend on a sessional basis alongside our reception children. This arrangement has worked well, but is not possible for two year olds and would also not be possible if our school numbers were to rise.

The long term solution is therefore to build a separate building on the school site that can act as a nursery and accommodate pre-school children. We have drawn up plans for such a building and have submitted bids for funding. We are delighted to report that we have been successful in these bids and have secured a grant of £150,000 from the government's School Based Nurseries fund. This can be added to another grant we have secured from the Gloucestershire's Early Years

Entitlement fund. This takes us close to the quotes we have received for the project, however we estimate we still have a shortfall of around £50,000 to cover all the costs.

We therefore need to secure additional financial support from the community to see the project through to completion. This seems like a daunting task, but we are confident that it is possible if we are able to sufficiently mobilise support. We are looking to establish a project support group of representatives from across the community to drive this forward. If you have ideas of possible sources of funding or would like to be involved in this exciting project then feel free to contact us at the email address below.

We invite all members of the community to visit the school hall between 5.30pm and 7.30pm on Wednesday 13th May, when you can inspect the plans for the new building, discuss with us the details of the project and ask any questions you may have.

Martin Bragg, representing the School Governing Body
Zoe Mandeville, Headteacher
ups@uley.gloucs.sch.uk

Uley Parish Council

Larks!

We are sure that everyone loves hearing the larks singing up on Uley Bury and will join us in wanting to ensure that they can nest in peace. As you will probably know, larks nest on the ground and are disturbed by walkers and dogs. The owner of the field on top of the Bury has asked that people should not go into that field but stick to the carriage tracks around the edge. This will give the larks space to nest where they will not be disturbed.

Playground Inspection

Residents are advised that the annual ROSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) safety inspection of the playground on Raglan Way took place during April. This routine assessment helps ensure that the play equipment and surrounding area remain safe and well-maintained for all users.

Defibrillator Training

Earlier this year the two defibrillators we had in the village were renewed as they had come to the end of their working life. The defibrillators are designed to be easy to use without training and guide the user through the process, however UPC have decided to explore the possibility of organising a 2 hour course provided by the Red Cross to provide additional training in their use. The class is limited to 12 people and would run on a weekday either morning or afternoon. It is not a First Aid course.

UPC have decided that we should subsidise this event and only charge a nominal amount of £5 per person. If you are interested in attending and are over 16 years old please indicate your interest by sending an email stating your preferred day of the week and times of the day to t.mills@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk. We cannot guarantee anything, but once we have ideas then we will contact those that have shown an interest.

Update from Cam and Uley Family Practice

Uley Surgery

The purchase of the Uley Surgery building is now in its final stages. Once complete, it will secure the long-term future of both the Surgery and the Dispensary. We're very close to the finish line, and everything is progressing as expected.

New Cam Surgery

As some parishioners and patients will be aware, NHS Gloucestershire is supporting a plan to build a new surgery in the Cam area to better support the current and future needs of the local population.

To support the development of a business case, future planning application, and to understand patient priorities, the Practice will issue a Patient Questionnaire in

the next few weeks, via a range of accessible routes, to enable patients to provide their comments / needs / expectations.

We would encourage as many Uley patients as possible to respond to the Questionnaire so that our voice is heard.

Tracy Mason-Fayle

Uley Parish Councillor and
PPG Member

Jonathan Pape

PPG Member

NOTICE OF AGM

The Annual General Meeting of

ULEY MILLENNIUM GREEN LTD

will be held on the Millennium Green on

Monday 1st June 2026 at 7.00pm

Or the following Monday, if wet.
All are very welcome – please bring a seat!

From the Churchwardens

As we write, we are just putting Easter behind us and enjoying the beautiful blue haze of bluebells carpeting the woodlands. On the best days it feels as though summer is here – though the fickleness of spring weather still intervenes quite frequently!

A new carpet has been fitted at Holy Cross in Owlpen, which will be a welcome upgrade and ensure all the bridal parties will have a fitting surface to enter the church to celebrate. The wedding season has got underway, and we're so pleased to see so many of the couples get married who we've been enjoying getting to know as they have joined us in services while making their 'qualifying connection' for marriage in the parish. Still at Holy Cross, now that evenings are lighter and the weather is (mostly!) kinder, Evensong has begun again. This is a lovely reflective service, with hymns, and it's a real bonus if you are able to combine it with a walk across the fields!

We enjoyed hosting the Uley School end of term service, which celebrated the Malawi 'well project' and featured work around this undertaken by the children. You will probably know by now that, thanks to the generosity of Uley people and their friends, we exceeded the 'target' level for donations and raised – including GiftAid on donations - £4246. A magnificent achievement! Thank you to all who have contributed!

Alix Hudman and Andy Hinston have completed their recording and mapping of Owlpen graveyard, complementing the work done previously on the St Giles graveyards. This valuable record of all the tombs and gravestones, and will be especially appreciated by people researching ancestors' graves. Thank you, Alix and Andy, for your meticulous and time-consuming work.

Some of you may have noticed that the St Giles clock as fairly recently stopped chiming the hours (surprisingly, no one has to our knowledge commented to anyone on this!). The clock received its annual service recently, during which it was observed that the failure was due to wear in the chiming mechanism. We await a report on the extent of work required and the estimated cost.

Monday Mingle

10 - 12 in Uley Church

Runs every morning except bank holidays.

There are hot drinks, cake and friendly chat for all ages, from youngest to oldest.

Everyone is welcome

Musical Bears!

Do join us on

Saturday 16th May from 3pm

for an afternoon of music combined with teddy bear fun!

Teas and cake

Plant stall

Music by the Thornbury Clarinet Choir

Chocolate Teddy Bear Hunt

Best dressed Teddy competition (children and adult classes!)

To be held in St Giles gardens, do bring a chair or a rug.

If wet, we will be inside the church.

In support of the Friends of St Giles

Ladies dust off your tennis racquets!

Uley Ladies Tennis, a social group which has been running for more than 45 years, has the opportunity to play doubles tennis every weekday morning on private courts in Uley, Nympsfield and Owlpen, as well as the public courts in Dursley.

There is also the opportunity to use a private court in Nympsfield for early evening games.

If you would like to join us, please contact Shirley Dewey for further details on 07790 810675

The Uley Rounders Tournament and Social

will be happening again on the

11th July from 2pm on the Millennium Green

More info to follow next month



From the Uley, Nympsfield and Owlpen Church Registers

Baptism

4th April Kate Vernon at St Giles, Uley

Banns read in April

Alex Lipscomb and Connie Buchanan

James Murchison and Louise Watkin

Marriages

1st April Jonathan Alderson and
Constance Heathfield at Holy Cross,
Owlpen

8th April Michael Dicken and Nadia
Mellerup at Holy Cross, Owlpen

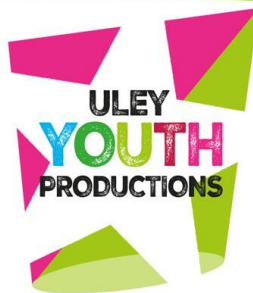
18th April Toby Smith and Mary Barnfield
at Holy Cross, Owlpen

Funerals

30th April Edith Newman at St Giles, Uley

Year's Mind in May

Derek Heaney, Tessa Watts, Alan Bartlett,
Mervyn Tilling, May Neville, Diane Rule,
Eric Lockier, Gerald Thomas, Nancy
Shipton, Rosemary Stokes, Margaret
Robins, Graeme Bone, Effie Duffett, Enid
Holloway, Olive Sharland, Audrey Booth,
Wenda Elliott, Alfred Rymer, Bettina
Mack, Sarah Lunt, Doreen Gawlik, Pat
Jackson, Alan Wootton, Ray Barnfield,
David Gazzard, Philip Heaney, Jack
Morgan, Tony Curnock



WANTED
YOUTH THEATRE
CLUB LEADER

Our amazing and beloved leader, Amanda Voss, has decided it's time to hang up her dancing shoes so we are on the lookout for a new creative director of dance, song and drama to run this super successful youth group from September 2026 – ideally getting involved from the summer term.

The club meets once a week during term time on Fridays at Uley Village Hall. We are always working towards our next production, ensuring our young-stars get to learn new theatre skills and put on the performance that they want.

This is a volunteer position, supported by a small but well-formed committee and helpers.

Do you have what it takes to bring out the brilliance of our talented tweens and teens?

Please contact Amanda to find out more:

amandavoss@btinternet.com

07773 793825



Uley Berries launches with a flourish

The brand-new *Uley Berries* women's group got off to a fantastic start on Wednesday 8th April, with 65 women coming together for an evening full of laughter, conversation and community spirit. The launch event took the form of a lively quiz night, superbly conducted by Angela Jones, giving everyone the chance to relax, mingle and enjoy some friendly competition. Teams quickly formed, the atmosphere buzzed with chat and good humour.

After several closely fought rounds, victory went to "The Mulberries" team. In a wonderful gesture that perfectly captured the spirit of the evening, they chose to donate their prize to Stroud Women's Refuge, adding a generous, thoughtful note to an already special night.

More than anything, the evening showed just how much appetite there is locally for a welcoming, informal space where women can come together, make connections and simply enjoy one another's company. The success of the launch is a promising sign for what's to come.

Looking ahead, the next *Uley Berries* gathering promises to be just as entertaining. Award-winning stand-up comedian Nik Hill will be sharing tales from his life on the comedy circuit. With years of experience performing and organising events in venues ranging from village halls to larger stages, Nik will offer a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the world of comedy - including how he got started, how he writes material, and the highs and lows of life as a performer.



The evening will also include a short comedy set, giving attendees a chance to enjoy his humour first-hand.

If the launch event is anything to go by, *Uley Berries* is set to become a regular highlight in the local calendar -- bringing people together, sparking friendships and creating plenty more memorable evenings and shared activities. Ideas for potential interest sub-groups and jolly outings are being mulled over.

Membership until December 2026 is £20; visitors are welcome @ £4 per event if space permits.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 13th May: Speaker Nik Hill
Chasing laughs: a comedian's survival story and a taste of comedy. Licensed bar available

Wednesday 10th June: Speaker Richard Beek, Film Producer/Director for Aardman Animations

All at 7:30pm in the Village Hall

Ann Warrender on behalf of *Uley Berries*

For more information please email uleyberries@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook at *Uley Berries*

Church Letter

Dear Friends

Many people do their looking forward and looking back at the turn of the New Year. In the parish of Uley, Owlpen and Nympsfield, we are doing this on 10 May at the annual meetings, which will start at 10am at St Giles, Uley - Croissant and Coffee etc from 9.45am. Any adult living in the parish is entitled to attend and to vote for the Church Wardens, which is a reminder that the parish churches belong to the parish, not to the church. This is also why anyone living in the parish is entitled to have a wedding, a funeral or a Christening in their parish church, regardless of whether they worship regularly or not.

Early on in 2025 the Trustees of the churches (PCC) agreed to stop being concerned about counting how many people 'come to church' and to find other ways of measuring how we're doing at 'being church'. I'm not sure we've found the 'other ways of measuring' yet, although enabling this village to raise enough money for a school and community in Malawi to have clean water counts for something.

If you have any interest in what's been going on during 2025, please come along on 10th May, ask questions, express your hopes and prayers and enjoy being together with friends and neighbours. How church can be for children and

families is a pressing concern as we look forward – perhaps you have some ideas.

The 24th May is the Christian Festival of Pentecost when we celebrate the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit, which utterly transformed a frightened bunch of early followers of Jesus and we believe continues to breath life into the church and world today. This festival reminds us to ask that God will inspire us with love and make us more like Jesus. The PCC believe that we are called to live out this prayer through friendship, fun, faith development and by being a force for good.

I wonder what you think the church should be doing right here, right now? Come and have your say on 10th May.

Whatever it is we are to do, I believe we are to be a people whose lives point to a deeper reality, a more lasting love and a transforming presence. Thank God this doesn't mean that we need get everything right or pretend that this is the case. Thank God that it is in the darkest places that the Light shines the brightest and that we are simply invited to turn towards the One who is Love and Life and Light. So, I pray that whatever the circumstances of our lives and the world in which we live we will be open to this Presence in the ordinariness of our daily lives, the beauty of the world in which we live and the goodness and truthfulness we encounter day by day.

I finished my April letter with the Easter acclamation: Alleluia Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed Alleluia!

I believe the Risen Christ renders everything we can see, touch, hear, taste, or sense in any way as utterly penultimate to the larger reality of a life-giving presence in the world that calls into question every other deathly claim on our lives. This truth opens the possibility for forgiveness, meaning, purpose and hope.

Thank God for that!

Revd Juliet

FOOD FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Come and taste a range of international dishes, with music and storytelling

Food provided by people from the local community

Including dishes from

Ukraine • Afghanistan • Italy • Poland • Gujarat

Saturday 11th July • 4.30pm - 7.30pm

Dursley Community Centre, Rednock Drive

Tickets sold in advance £5.00 or £6.00 on the door

Details of where you can buy tickets will be advertised very soon



RNLI Cream Tea and Prosecco Bar

Sunday 31 May 2026

2 - 5pm

Uley Pavilion

Shadwell, Uley, GL11 5BW

Join us at The Pavilion

Spend the afternoon with friends and family

Enjoy the beautiful setting

Homemade scones and cakes and much more



Lifeboats

Save the date

Here is a preview of some of this year's categories to get you going:

Uley Annual Show Saturday 12th September

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 2PM



VEGETABLES

6 named edible herbs (in a vase)
Choice of onions/garlic/shallots
4 carrots
Any wonky vegetable
3 beetroot
3 potatoes

1 pumpkin or squash
Longest runner bean
2 courgettes
Any other vegetable
5 French beans

FRUIT

6 tomatoes (retain stalks)
6 plums
6 small tomatoes
3 rhubarb stalks

6 berries (e.g. raspberries)
1 cucumber
6 apples
Any other fruit

PHOTOGRAPHY (Rosemary Bowmer Cup)

ALL AGES
Black and White (any subject)
Close up
Something happy
Contrasts (set of 3)
Northern Lights

PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE (rosette)
Golden colours

SECONDARY SCHOOL AGE (rosette)
Action Photograph
Transport

ART

Potholes

Abstract - the 70's

Portrait

A Print (any style e.g. lino/ potato/
etching/ screen print)

FLOWERS

6 named flowers (in a vase)

6 sweet peas (in a vase)

1 specimen rose (in a vase)

Dahlia(s)

4 rose blooms of different
varieties (in a vase)

A specimen of any flower, not
listed (in a vase)

4 stems any one variety, not
listed (in a vase, no foliage)

Specimen house plant

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT (Rosemary Bowmer Cup)

Miniature arrangement

(10cm max spread)

Arrangement in a basket

(45cmmax)

Arrangement using flowers of one
colour plus foliage (max 50x50cm)

Flower-free bouquet (ie foliage,
berries)

Harvest wreath using all natural
components

Arrangement in any container
using flowers from own garden
(max 50x50cm)

HANDICRAFTS

A string of bunting (folded)

A patchwork waistcoat

Any hand knitted or crochet item

Handmade article for use or
decoration in the home

A macrame item

Soft Toy

Felting (wet or needle)

Greetings card (any medium)

A birdhouse

A badge or brooch

Any item not included in above



(Please refer to the published schedule/or further details and age restrictions)

Any queries please contact the team: ulevannualshow@gmail.com

Garden Notes

May is without doubt my favourite month... a gateway to summer, the hedgerows and meadows are at their frothiest zenith.

The two watchwords in my book this month are weeding and supporting all the soft new growth before they topple under the weight of flowers.

So it might seem a tad odd to be thinking about plants suited to that most challenging of spaces... dry shade! Climate change is shifting our priorities and focusing on ensuring that the "right plants are in the right place" Beth Chatto.

Plants for Dry Shade

We are blessed here with some beautiful betulas (birches) whose surface roots strip nutrients and moisture for underplanting - but there are plants that relish the challenge to thrive.

Eurybia Schreberi (formerly *Aster Divaricatus* - charming dainty white daisies in August through September. It makes a gently spreading ground cover, lighting up dark corners. I leave the seed heads over winter.

We're all familiar with Arums but **Arum italicum 'Marmoratum'** is on another level! A beautiful winter foliage plant, it copes even with dry shade, but the leaves are much larger with moisture. I use the leaves to cheer up winter floral arrangements. It dies away in summer.

Epimediums are excellent evergreen ground covers and there are many varieties. **E. 'Spine Tingler'** has an RHS award. It sports elongated foliage that has a bronze red flush turning green. Lemon yellow flowers up to 20cm April to May.

Geranium macrorrhizum 'White-Ness' (another RHS plant of merit) is happy in either sun or shade. A great ground cover for a shady border. This is the most compact of *G. macrorrhizum* and flowers for longer too.

Euphorbia amygdaloides var. robbiae is a compact ground cover with lime green flowers in late spring. Needs keeping an eye on as can spread if happy. **E. characins 'Humpty Dumpty'** is a more compact *Euphorbia* and is a firm favourite in our garden - plus I love the name!

Some Ferns... **Polystichum setiferum** (soft shield fern) is an obliging evergreen fern in either sun or shade. (RHS AGM) Plant in groups of odd numbers. **Polypodium vulgare** (native fern). Dark green winter foliage happy in dry shade once established. Cut winter foliage back in spring to reveal the new unfurling growth.

Out of fashion for many years, but now making an enthusiastic come back, is the immensely useful **Bergenia** (Elephants Ears). There are some lovely new varieties such as **B. 'Bressingham White'** flowering April to May or **B. 'Eroica'** with

gorgeous cerise flowers - happy in either light or heavy shade. Very pretty with blue scillas. Both bergenias have RHS AGMs.

Garden Lighting for Wildlife

Most of us can't wait for temperatures to rise to make use of our outdoor spaces at night, but for the wildlife its a different story. Nocturnal creatures are severely hampered by our bright lighting so here are some thoughts to offset the worst effects.

- Angle security lights down and shorten timer
- Fit hoods
- Use PIR motion sensors

- Use low intensity lights with warmer hues
- Turn all lighting off when you leave
- Use a diversity of plants that attracts nocturnal insects that in turn support our beleaguered bats - Nicotiana, Oenothera, evening primrose and honeysuckle

Tune out global news and tune in to the sounds of this glorious month.

Caroline

@awalledgarden

Uley Community Stores & Post Office Diary

Tel Shop: 861592 | Tel Post Office: 860203 (Ailsa, Sadie and Angela)
www.uleycommunitystores.co.uk | Run by Volunteers

The Easter Egg raffle was drawn on Good Friday, won by a delighted Mark Pardoe from Uley.

Hopefully we have had some spring sunshine to show off the lovely flowers and plants for sale to cheer us up. Donations of your fruit and vegetables, a real treat, are always welcome.

Holiday season under way, Euros in stock, all other currencies can be ordered through the Post office or online. Lovely Queen Elizabeth stamps came out at the end of April, followed by Castle stamps in May.

If you have a suggestion for any new items you'd like stocked please let us know, there's a little notebook for your suggestions and any feedback you might have.

Pami Davis

Shop Opening Hours

Monday to Friday: 8am - 5.30pm
Saturdays: 8am - 1 pm
Sundays: 9am - 12pm

Post Office Opening Hours

Monday to Friday: 9am - 5.30pm
(Closed for lunch 1pm - 2pm)
(Wednesdays closes 4.30pm)
Saturdays: 9am - 12.30pm
Sundays: Closed

Upcoming revised opening hours for the Shop and Post Office:

May Day Bank Holiday Monday May 4th

Shop: 9-12, Post Office: Closed.

Spring Bank Holiday Monday May 25th

Shop: 9-12, Post Office: Closed.

FOR MAY

• • •

In the Shop

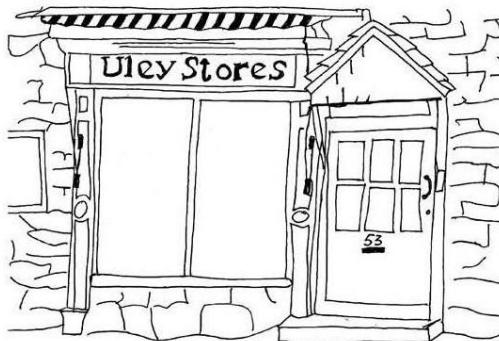
...there is a fabulous selection local, hand-made, traditional cheese from Godsells Cheese using milk from their own herd in Leonard Stanley. Cockadilli Chilli, Singing Granny, Village Gossip – all worth a try. We are also one of the few places that sell their full-fat milk – it's not homogenised so you get the cream rising to the top. Something for the weekend, perhaps?

• • •

In the Post Office

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The Ewelme Benefice
Parish of Uley with Nympsfield and Owlpen

Rector: Revd Dr Juliet Jensen: 01453 350810
ewelmerector@gmail.com
Churchwardens - Nikki Clarke and David Thomas

Services in May 2026

3rd May - 5th Sunday of Easter

10am Parish Communion, St Bartholomew's,
Nympsfield

10th May - 6th Sunday of Easter

9am Said Holy Communion (to finish about 09.30)
Followed by Welcome and Refreshments

10am Vestry Meeting and APCM to be followed by
Second Sunday Service "Celebration of Church Life"

14th May - Ascension Day

12noon Parish Holy Communion

17th May - 7th Sunday of Easter

10am Parish Holy Communion, St Giles, Uley

6pm Evensong, Holy Cross, Owlpen

24th May - Pentecost

10am Benefice Holy Communion, St James, Dursley

31st May - Trinity Sunday

10am Parish Holy Communion at Holy Cross, Owlpen

To book weddings, baptisms and for general information

Contact - ewelmebeneficeoffice@gmail.com 01453549280