



# The Ovington Oracle

December 2015



Get ready ... it's nearly time for the famous Ovington Christmas Bazaar!

Saturday 12 December  
12:00 'til 3:00pm

Come for lunch ... hot home-made soup and filled rolls will be available with the usual (and unusual) mix of entertainment and stalls.



## Diary Dates

*All at Village Hall unless otherwise indicated*

Mondays, 10:30am	Coffee morning, until 11:30am
Mondays, 1:45pm	Bowls
Mondays, 6:00pm	Breckland Js Junior Choir
2 Dec, 11:00am	Crafters' session until 4:00pm
2 Dec, 7:45pm	Gardening Club
6 Dec, 9:30am	Holy communion (church)
12 Dec, noon	<b>Bazaar</b>
15 Dec, 7:00pm	Ladies Group
20 Dec, 6:00pm	Christmas carol service (church)

To book the village hall contact:  
Lyndia Lewis 882222



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### New Oracle email

*Editor*

The email system has been temperamental again for a while, so to remove at least one potential issue I have set up a new email address. Please would you send future contributions to:

**[oracle@ovington.org.uk](mailto:oracle@ovington.org.uk)**

The village web-site is still fully functional, in fact Jeremy has made some significant updates recently, so it is worth checking what's new at:

[www.ovington-village.org.uk](http://www.ovington-village.org.uk)

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### Happy Birthday

*Editor*

Jeremy Woods has reached 'three score and ten'. Well done, but no slacking off as the Ovington navy still needs you!



## Allotment Association

*John Hardy / Krissy Harwood Cross*

Any village resident who would like to be considered for an allotment please contact the secretary:

'Krissy Harwood Cross' [krissy335@btinternet.com](mailto:krissy335@btinternet.com)

Social function: "**Allotment Dig in Supper**" 23 January 2016 at Lyndia & Chris Lewis, 1 Church Road, Ovington. 7:30 @ £7.50 each including a drink.

All welcome, allotment holders, friends, potential allotment holders and villagers. Ring Lyndia on 01953-882222 for tickets. Look forward to seeing you.

## Ladies Group

*Angela Wynne*



We were so pleased to see so many of our members at our November meeting as the weather was terrible. Sue from The Dutch Flower Parade came along and demonstrated flower arranging with a Christmas theme. It was a lovely meeting and all the ladies were so quiet concentrating and so absorbed watching Sue's skills. It was a lovely evening. Sue gave us 2 arrangements as raffle prizes and the lucky winners were Betty Jones and Rose Angell.

Our December meeting on 15th is our Christmas Social. The committee will serve a hot meal to all ladies so please come along for a festive evening. The evening will begin at **7:00pm**. So please ladies, **don't have a meal** before coming along. There will be no raffle and no competition. We look forward to seeing all our members for this festive evening.

The out-going committee would like to wish the committee for 2016 a happy year and look forward to seeing you all at our January meeting on 19th when Julian Horn will be our speaker. We would also like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

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# Village Hall

Christine Reilly

## **Christmas Bazaar**

For those of you who have been in hibernation for the past few weeks, just a reminder that the annual Bazaar takes place on Saturday 12 December between 12:00 and 3:00pm. More helpers would be greatly appreciated, together with donations of prizes, gifts and items for sale. The village collection will be on Tuesday 1 December from 2:00pm, or items can be brought to the village hall on Monday mornings. Please don't leave stuff on Grace's doorstep as she retired from the committee over three years ago! Chris Lewis is doing the Chocolate Mountain, so he is looking for LOTS of delicious chocolate treats. The village hall will be open on Friday 11 December in the afternoon to put up the tables and again from 9:00am on the Saturday to set up all the stalls. Hot home-made soup will be available for lunch from noon, together with filled rolls and other goodies from the refreshments counter. Weather permitting, Jan will be bringing one or two of his birds of prey for some close encounters of the feathered variety. Tell all your friends, come en masse and have a great day out supporting your village hall and church.

## **Casting the Runes**

It was almost a sell-out, but all those who made the effort to turn out on a cold winter's night had a thoroughly enjoyable evening. It was fascinating to see how a cast of two people (and a fairly gruesome looking puppet) could re-tell a story of several characters in a very small space. We hope to have another show in early spring 2016, but haven't yet decided on what type of show to put on. Unfortunately, we are limited by the relatively small size of the hall. Quite a few of the acts on offer either have accommodation requirements for several people or just charge more than we can afford. Depending on the type of show, we can accommodate between 50 and 70 audience and we do not want to have to charge in excess of £10 a head. If you would be interested in offering over night accommodation to any performers next year, please let us know. There are some folk and jazz groups available, but we would need to be able to put up about 6 or 7 people!

## **Crafters**

This month we will be having another 'free' session to boost supplies for the Bazaar. Join us on Wednesday 2 December any time between 11:00am and 4:00pm, bringing whatever craft takes your fancy. As always, tea/coffee and biscuits will be provided together with a warm welcome.

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## **Parish Council (PC)**

*Timothy Birt*

Unconfirmed notes following the 5 November meeting.

### **Correspondence**

Costs for emptying dog bins for those which do not come under the remit of Breckland District Council were received. Councillors will attempt to keep bins under the District Council scheme.

### **Church Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Grant**

A presentation to the Council by John Hardy assisted by Chris Springford following the successful HLF application.

### **Finance**

Payments were reviewed and cheques signed including grants to charitable organisations who provide a service to the village: Air Ambulance (£100), First Response (£100) CAB (£300), EACH (£100) Norfolk Accident Rescue (£100).

External Auditors report was reviewed with no issues of concern.

A preliminary assessment of the 2016/17 precept was considered.

It was noted that Norfolk County Council are considering charging for and requiring parishes to collect salt to refill roadside salt bins.

### **Next meeting**

7 January, 2016 at 7:30pm.


### **Dog Bin** (post meeting note)

The new dog bin was installed in the highways approved area, but unfortunately had to be removed as the electricity post is not on public land. This could leave the parish liable for emptying the bin. This is slightly unfortunate as the electricity post gave a more discrete installation however, as soon as the boundary is defined it will be re-installed on a post close by.

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## St John's Church

*Ann Johnson*

Sunday, 6th Dec 9:30am	Holy Communion	
Sunday, 20th Dec 6:00pm	Carol Service	
	There will be no church cleaning this month.	

A warm welcome to you all to join us for our Traditional Carol Service. Mulled wine and minced pies etc will be served after the service.

If anybody wishes to help with decorating the church for Christmas they are welcome to join us on Saturday, 19 December or, as the church is open daily between 9:00am – 3:00pm, at their convenience during the week before.

God's Blessings to you all over the Christmas Period and for the New Year and grateful thanks to all who have helped in any way, both inside the church and outside in the churchyard, during the year. We have had visitors from all over this country and from several countries abroad and there have been some lovely comments written in our visitor's book.

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## Local Post Office

*Nick Creek*

Please may I remind readers that Saham Toney's Post Office is open on Mondays from 10:00am to midday and on Thursdays from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. It is situated in the Wells-Cole Community Centre in Bell Lane.

The Post Office conducts almost all the same business as a normal Post Office. There is plenty of free parking, and with Christmas coming, will be far less crowded than Post Offices in the towns.

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## Our community – Our church

Chris Springford

In a letter dated 22 September 2015, we were advised of the successful outcome of our third bid to attract Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) for our proposed project in Ovington. The news was announced as follows:

Congratulations, your application has now been assessed and I'm delighted to inform you that we have decided to award a first-round pass of up to £191,400, which represents 86% of total project costs of £222,006. I am also pleased to confirm that this includes a development grant of up to £27,000 (twenty seven thousand pounds) 85% of the total development work cost of £31,782 towards preparation of your second round submission.

A first-round pass means that we believe that your project has potential to deliver high-quality outcomes and value for Lottery money.

The project is in three phases: start-up (where we are now), investigation and development of detailed plans to support these aims, followed by the work to implement the plans.

The work will all carry HLF branding under the banner of 'Our community – Our church', as a symbol of our intention to use the extensive skills inherent in the village to engage with a younger generation in gaining an understanding of the work of the church in the community.

This is a fantastic opportunity to capture the history and ecology of this place; connect the church with the village, diocese and world-wide church networks – while getting the church building in a good state for the next hundred years.

The initial feedback that we have from the village is of enthusiastic support for the project.

In addition to the HLF grant, some local fund-raising will be needed to help with those elements of the project not specifically covered in the grant. Offers to run concerts and other fund-raising initiatives are being developed to help with this.

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## Animal News

*Jeremy Woods*

### **Watch out for your Fish!**

Otters have been attacking the village! In the Crescent there were two ponds full of specialist fish such as Koi Carp. One pond was emptied completely and the other pond was attacked with the smaller fish gone and a larger fish injured.

The intact pond was modified to stop further damage, although there have been signs of another attempt to get into the pond. Otters are also believed to have emptied a fishing pond on the Saham road and also another pond in central Ovington. So if you are keeping expensive fish – beware. it is believed that the Swimming pool on Carbrooke Road is still safe, unless it has been booked by little furry animals!

### **Home for a cat?**

A stray Tom cat called Ginger is living in the Crescent. He has been there since the summer and no one has claimed him. He has been heroically looked after by Gerry and Kim, but Winter is here and he is living outside.

If you need a cat let us know. Contact Jeremy on 01953 883953

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## Gardening Club

*Ed Reilly*



The November meeting was an interesting talk by Barry Gayton on Plantsman's Plants which gave details of all the plants which he had grown but were not in general cultivation.

The December meeting will be the AGM on Wednesday 2 December at 7:45 pm in the village hall. Please note that we are losing the majority of the committee at the AGM and replacements must be found if we are to continue next year. The meeting itself will be quite short, but will be followed by the usual festive refreshments and entertainment. Hope to see you there!

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## Wayland Partnership

*Suzanne Rhind*

### Exciting New **Inter-Generational Technology Project** in Wayland

The Wayland Partnership is offering IT training to older people through a new project funded by the Norfolk County Council Youth Social Action Fund via Norfolk Community Foundation.

The training will provide assistance to older people who want to learn how to use a smart phone or a tablet or to get online and use programs such as Skype or online shopping. The training will be delivered by young people aged 15 and older who have the skills and confidence to use this technology.

We'd love to hear from anyone aged 15-19 who would like to get involved, please get in touch via

email: [Suzanne@wayland.org.uk](mailto:Suzanne@wayland.org.uk).

Tel: 01953-883915

We will be holding an information evening on Monday 14 December at 5:30pm in Wayland House, Watton (next to the Police Station)

--ooOoo--

### Exciting new project for **Children and Young People** in Wayland

The Wayland Partnership has just been awarded funding from the Norfolk County Council Youth Social Action Fund via Norfolk Community Foundation to kick-start a project with children and young people in Wayland.

The idea for the project came from Charlotte Franke, one of our young volunteers and a local resident, who has a passion for the environment and wants to share this with her peers. Charlotte has helped to create and develop our Wayland Exciting Environmental Programme (E.E.P!) where we aim to get children and young people aged 10 to 14 planting trees and sowing wild-flowers in the community, along with any other activities they would like to do and help plan, that preserve and enhance our local environment.

We are also holding an information session on Monday 14 December at 4:00pm at Wayland House, Watton (next to the Police Station) for you to attend to find out more about what the project involves.

Tel: 01953-883915, email: [Suzanne@wayland.org.uk](mailto:Suzanne@wayland.org.uk)

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## Village Lottery

Adrian Malton

Winners of the November draw:



1st Prize (£10)

Ed Reilly;

2nd prize (£5)

Stephen Fosh

The final draw for 2015 will be at the Bazaar with many more prizes.

Remember to complete your application (included with this Oracle) for the **2016 Village Lottery**.

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## Christmas Landfill Waste

Pam Sayle – Breckland Council

Don't give to landfill this Christmas!

When you look at the facts about how much we will waste this Christmas it is quite alarming. It is estimated that over Christmas as much as 83 sq km of wrapping paper will end up in UK rubbish bins, enough to cover Guernsey or to cover Hyde Park 33 times! Please do what you can to reduce this wastage and then recycle.

Don't be a festive spoiler, please do the right thing and recycle correctly. We would love your loose and clean recycling, including:

- Wrapping paper (minus sticky tape),
- Greetings cards
- Clean glass bottles and jars  
*[Editor: Better to recycle at the village bottle bank if you can]*
- Clean aluminium foil wrap and cartons
- Advent calendars (without plastic inserts)
- Clean food tins and drink cans
- Clean takeaway cartons

There are fun ways to recycle this Christmas too. Try making Christmas bunting out of used wrapping paper or prepare for next year and cut up the front of Christmas cards to make present tags.

More at: [www.breckland.gov.uk/content/z-recycling](http://www.breckland.gov.uk/content/z-recycling)

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## Helping Handbags

Karen Weir



Helping handbags focusses on providing sanitary & hygiene products for local homeless women.

Dig out a hand bag you no longer use and fill it with female essentials such as:

- ◆ Hat
- ◆ Scarf
- ◆ Gloves
- ◆ Lip balm
- ◆ Cotton buds
- ◆ Shower gel
- ◆ Sandpaper emery boards
- ◆ Hair brush & bobbles
- ◆ Blank Christmas cards
- ◆ Envelope & stamp
- ◆ Silver survival cover
- ◆ Snacks
- ◆ Tampons / sanitary towels
- ◆ Knickers
- ◆ Feminine Hygiene Wipes
- ◆ Panty liners
- ◆ Toothpaste / toothbrush
- ◆ Dental floss
- ◆ Shampoo & conditioner
- ◆ Non-aerosol deodorant
- ◆ Face moisturiser
- ◆ Tissues
- ◆ Hand wipes
- ◆ Soap

Please do NOT include any products that contain glass or alcohol, nor monetary gifts.

Then pass your gift to our local co-ordinator for distribution:

Karen Weir, 17 The Street.  
Tel: 07735 205990



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## Rainfall

Rod Rumsby

Final total for October was: 45.5mm or 1.8"  
Rainfall thus far (Nov 15) is: 46.5 mm or 1.83"

[Editor:

*For those with an earth sciences interest: winter solstice is 22 December at 04:48. Sunrise will continue to get later for a while after the solstice, however sunset gets later at a faster rate thus making the days longer.]*

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## What's on locally

*Susan Hollingworth - 01953 880205*

The Draganfly Gallery presents:

### **Mistletoe & Wine all about the Christmas Season**

Mixed Media Art Exhibition

28 November to 19 December  
Opening coffee morning on Saturday 28  
November and again on Saturday 19  
December. 10:00am–12:30pm.



Call in and enjoy seasonal refreshments whilst you browse.

Dragonfly Gallery, Wayland House, High St, Watton IP25 6AR  
Weekdays 10:00 – 4:00pm, Saturday 10:00 – 1:00pm.

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*Town Council Christmas Lights Events*

### **Watton Festive Market** in the High Street

29 November 1:00pm – 4:00pm.

Attractions include Santa in his grotto – located at Wayland Hall;  
also bands, stalls, a funfair, donkeys, and carol singing.

### **Dereham Traditional European Market**

29 November 9:00am-5:00pm selling mainly food items

Charity fund-raising stalls – from 1:00pm

Fun Fair – 10:00am-7:00pm

Father Christmas in the Dereham Assembly Rooms – from 1.30pm

Acts on stage from 2:00pm – Salvation Army/Churches Together,  
Busybodies Stage School, RockavoX, Dance with Me Academy and  
Act Too Performing Arts, K-OS!, Yaxham Ukes (tbc)

The Christmas lights will be switched on at 4:30pm, when the  
Dereham Carnival mascot will also be revealed!

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### **Deadline for next issue: December 23rd**

Edit and Production: Linda and Tim Birt (889208)  
(Printed by us with an Ecosys printer) Stone House Farm, The Street

Proof reader: Christine Reilly (885848)

Please send contributions to either above or email:

**[oracle@ovington.org.uk](mailto:oracle@ovington.org.uk)**

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