

# The Ovington Oracle

February, 2016

## Spellbound

by Emily Jane Brontë

The night is darkening round me,  
The wild winds coldly blow;  
But a tyrant spell has bound me  
And I cannot, cannot go.

The giant trees are bending  
Their bare boughs weighed with snow.  
And the storm is fast descending,  
And yet I cannot go.

Clouds beyond clouds above me,  
Wastes beyond wastes below;  
But nothing drear can move me;  
I will not, cannot go.

This would normally be an appropriate poem for this time of year, we have the storms but winter seems to have gone missing.

## Diary Dates

*All at Village Hall unless otherwise indicated*

|                  |                                 |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mondays, 10:30am | Coffee morning, until 11:30am   |
| Mondays, 1:30pm  | Bowls                           |
| Mondays, 6:00pm  | Breckland Js Junior Choir       |
| 7 Feb, 9:30am    | Holy Communion (church)         |
| 3 Feb, 11:00am   | Crafters' session until 4:00pm  |
| 14 Feb, 3:00pm   | Afternoon Tea                   |
| 21 Feb, 10:30am  | Lay led family service (church) |
| 16 Feb, 7:45pm   | Ladies Group                    |
| 1 Mar, 7:30pm    | Village Hall AGM                |

To book the village hall contact Lyndia Lewis 882222

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

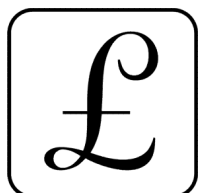
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## Village Lottery

*Adrian Malton*



The January winners:

1st prize (£10)

Rosemary Philpot (no.14)

2nd prize (£5)

Beryl Bard (no.21)

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## Letters to the Editor

*Grace*

I thought the footway along The Street was for pedestrian usage only and not for car parking. On several occasions recently this path has been completely blocked by parked cars, this makes progress along the path particularly dangerous especially during the hours of darkness. Please, please can the owners show some consideration for foot traffic and park either on the road or in their driveways.

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## Obituaries

*Rod Rumsby*

It is with great sadness that we have to report the passing of two of our highly respected and popular members of our community.

### **Mrs. J. S. (Sonny) Smith**

Mrs Smith had lived in Ovington since 1958 and was well known, with her late husband, for running Town Farm and being a purveyor of fresh free range eggs.

She died on 23rd December aged 87, and her funeral was held at St Peter & Paul Church Carbrooke on Thursday 14th Jan, many Ovington villagers attended.



### **Mr Dave Carr**

Mr Dave Carr had lived in Ovington for nearly twenty years and with his wife Betty, maintained their extensive grounds to a very high standard, and his love of floral arrangements was apparent in their garden design.

Dave died on Jan 8th and his funeral at St John's Church Ovington took place on Wednesday 20th Jan, where a large congregation of Family and Ovington residents joined to celebrate Dave's life.

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## Ladies Group

*Ann Johnson*



Eighteen members of the Ladies Group were treated to a most interesting talk, enhanced with slides, from Local Historian Julian Horn, entitled "WATTON – several hundred years in a few minutes"! Well it wasn't a few minutes but it was most informative and fascinating.

He mainly covered the High Street, which was a centre of commerce, Norwich Road up as far as The Crab and Winkle Railway Station, Thetford Road as far as The Victoria Hospital, Brandon Road down to Disraeli House and also a bit of Middle Street and Back Street. He talked about the flourishing Medieval Market held each Wednesday in Watton and comprised of over 60 stalls held in the area around Middle Street, branching off in all directions and all in sight of The Manor House. He encouraged us to look up for historical signs the next time we walk down the High Street as the first floor upwards of the shops have not changed that much over the centuries, apart from many less chimney stacks. Julian was thanked for the very interesting evening by Rosemary. He very kindly donated his fee to the Heritage Lottery Fund at St John's Church.

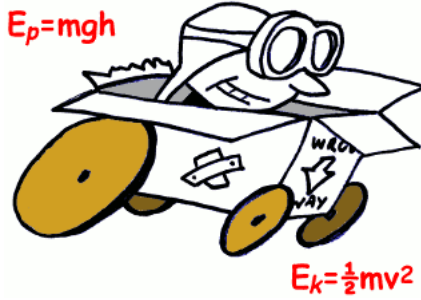
The competition for the letter 'N' was won by Joyce with her quaint Nut Crackers.

It was decided at the meeting, that as funds were in quite a healthy state, £75 would be sent to both The East Anglia Air Ambulance and The Nook Appeal (East Anglia Children's Hospice).

Next month's meeting will be on Tuesday, 16th February, at 7:45pm, when we look forward to a talk from Sue Gattuso about The Swaffham Museum and the competition letter will be "O".

# Wacky Scrappy Gravity Race

Timothy Birt



A fun competition on Spring bank holiday:

**Monday 30 May 2016**

You must make a cart that you can sit in or on. It must not have any form of motive power, engine, pedals, sail, etc.

The competition is the sum of two parts:

1. Judges will award points for design, original ideas and imaginative use of scrap material; points will be deducted for use of new stuff (except safety material).
2. Timed runs will be made, with the quickest cart earning most points. The race will commence from a fixed sloping platform giving each cart a consistent 'push-off', then it is just the road incline to keep you going!

Your cart will need to get under a 1m high bridge, negotiate at least one chicane, before taking on the infamous 'allotment corner' and then it is a high speed 'amble' to the finish line outside the village hall. We might think up some other devious obstacles before event day, so make sure you have good control.

A web-site is in preparation so for 'the rules', track location map, construction examples and an application form, see:

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

Anyone who takes it too seriously will be docked points!

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This fun event is being organised by volunteers who are providing all the track equipment. The event is underwritten by Ovington **Parish Council** who have arranged basic public liability insurance and the temporary road closure. To pay these legal costs there is a fee of £5.00 per cart. Cheques should be made payable to "Ovington Parish Council".

Ovington **Village Hall** have kindly agreed to open to provide refreshments and toilet facilities.

Please return your application and cheque to Tim (address back page)

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# Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Public Meeting

*John Hardy*

A report of the St John's Heritage Lottery Fund Public meeting held on Friday 22 Jan.

## **Our Community – Our Church**

The progress made with the heritage lottery fund (HLF) to repair, restore and reinvigorate the church as a community asset were well received by a large group. The project is in two specific but linked parts.

**Part one, the church restoration work**, was presented by the architect who described how the Quinquennial Inspection report in 2009 showed significant repairs were needed and HLF monies have been allocated as a result. The report identified that severe drainage problems were causing damage to the fabric of the church and tower. Discussion took place about linked proposals to modify the inside of the church to increase opportunities for community access such as perhaps moving the font, two rows of pews and improving the limited kitchen facilities. These, plus the suggestion of having a toilet in the church, sparked a lively debate. The architect advised that plans for various designs would be available for public consideration and it was agreed to take concerns to a future meeting with the PCC. It was acknowledged that there needed to be village involvement and transparency about what was happening.

**Part two is the Community Project** and this was well received with representatives of some of the participating schools in attendance. Sali Martin, Head of Vocational Studies at Wayland Academy has two groups of Year 10 students who are very keen to be involved providing physical assistance in helping to restore the graveyard and working with the architect on exam based projects. Andrew Evans, an A level student from the Icen Academy, demonstrated the HLF church website that he and a fellow student Luke Heys have constructed from scratch. They have provided the website structure which will facilitate a discussion forum and news feed to allow us to contribute and monitor the progress of the project. Their hard work, over a short time, was recognised by all.

The overall project was enthusiastically received. Further meetings will be held to clarify the points already raised and to address boundary and access queries. This will allow the HLF application to progress and release further money.

Thank you all for coming. We hope to have a further open meeting early in March. The Oracle will provide regular updates on the project including dates of open meeting, all welcome to attend.



*Editor: This news made the front page of the Watton & Swaffham Times, see:*

[http://www.wattonandswaffhamtimes.co.uk/news/church\\_awarded\\_220\\_000\\_grant\\_to\\_become\\_a\\_hub\\_for\\_community\\_1\\_4384598](http://www.wattonandswaffhamtimes.co.uk/news/church_awarded_220_000_grant_to_become_a_hub_for_community_1_4384598)

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## St John's Church

Ann Johnson

Sunday, 7th Feb  
9:30am Holy Communion

Sunday, 21st Feb  
10:30am Lay Led Family Service

Monday, 29th Feb  
1:30pm Church Cleaning



Flowers in Church (until start of Lent – 10th February) – Harriett

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## Parish Council (PC)

Heidi Frary (Clerk) / Timothy Birt

A report of the meeting on 7 January, from notes and the unconfirmed minutes.

### **Matters Arising** from previous minutes

The PC discussed the Gravity Race (see page 5), a number of matters associated with this were delegated to Cllr Birt in association with the Clerk.

The *Parish Partnership Bid* for bus stops on the main road was submitted and acknowledged. The result will be known in April / May.

The dog bin has been re-installed centrally on a new post, however, a review of Land Registry appears to show that the initial installation location was on public land after all. Other dog bins in the village are showing signs of rusting and the cost of replacements will be added to the next budget.

PC audit requirements are changing. Councillors agreed to use the the Norfolk Association of Local Councils (NALC) expertise to comply with our legal requirements.

A tree survey within Ovington Glebe is expected to be completed early in 2016. The PC awaits the Glebe surveyor's report.

### **Planning**

Alston Farm – Convert barn to dwelling (3PL/2015/1374/F): Councillors felt that the application should be refused as it would relinquish planning control of vehicle movements on to a dangerous stretch of road. Councillors noted that this is losing an employment opportunity within the area and that there are no services, footway, buses or local facilities to make this a sustainable change of use.

Otterwood Kennel – An appeal is under way, the Clerk will inform the Council of the outcome in due course.

### Proposed 50mph speed limit for A1075.

There are signs already recommending 20mph and 30mph which highlight that a speed limit of 50 mph is too high. The revised northern extent of the 50 mph ends just before the HGV entrance to Barton Farm, councillors felt it more appropriate to include Barton Farm entrance and that the 50mph should cover the side



roads of Saham Road, The Street and Church Road omitted and unclear on the NCC provided documentation. Including these roads would significantly reduce the signage and 'street furniture' requirements.

## **Finance**

Councillors reviewed payments to be made and signed cheques.

It was noted that hire charges for the Village Hall have risen.

## **Precept for 2016/17**

The Clerk circulated a spreadsheet with draft figures for the precept which was discussed. It was agreed that the precept should be increased by 2% for each band D payment. The total therefore requested is £4025.

## **Administration**

The PC agreed to sign an access document (to the allotments) which replaces a temporary agreement which had expired.

Cllr Rumsby has inspected the trees and reported that the cherry tree in Crown Crescent has recovered and the other trees are all in good condition.

## **Public Participation**

A member of the public has mentioned that the trod is not suitable for motorised disability scooters. Councillors agreed but noted that the trod had only ever been described as 'a loose-finished footpath'.

County Councillor (CC) Bowles introduced herself and agreed to support the Parish Council comments regarding the speed limit changes.

District Councillor (DC) Rogers informed the Council that the new Local Plan will be posted to Clerks. The consultation is due to expire before the next meeting. It was agreed that it needs to be circulated and if another meeting is needed to make comments it will be arranged. He added that Watton are looking to reduce the speed limit as it leaves Watton and should link with the Ovington plans. CC Bowles agreed to report this to Highways.

## **Next meeting**

3 March at 7:30pm

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## Village Hall

Christine Reilly

### Afternoon Tea

Sunday 14 February, 3:00pm

Treat your loved one(s) to a slap-up tea on Sunday 14 February. Call 885848 or come to the Village Hall any Monday morning to book your table. Full afternoon tea, consisting of a selection of sandwiches, pastries and cakes plus tea or coffee, costs only £4 per person. Space is limited, so advance bookings only. Proceeds, including the raffle, go to Village Hall funds.

Next month, on 13 March, we have afternoon tea with Mr Bryan Thurlow providing a presentation on the history of British Music Halls with many familiar songs and monologues.

### AGM

Please note that the Village Hall AGM will be on Tuesday 1 March at 7:30pm.

### Crafts

Come on all you crafters, bring along something creative to do on Wednesday 3 February! Any craft is welcome. The Village Hall opens at 11:00am and tea or coffee is provided. It is a good opportunity to spend time with like-minded crafters, swap ideas and perhaps learn new skills. We know there are many talented people out there, so don't be shy!

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## Rainfall

Rod Rumsby

Herewith rainfall recordings for the metropolis of Ovington according to the *Chief Precipitation Practitioner (CPP)*\*\*:



Total rainfall for 2015 was 623.5mm or 24.5" of which December contributed 49.5mm or around 2".

The amount deposited on the village this month so far has been 45mm or 1.8", and it's raining as I write.

The little layer of snow on the 14th contributed, after melting, about 2mm of that total.

\*\* [Editor: I made that job title up, promotion??]

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## Requests & comments

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*Nigel D. Thomas*

### **Calling all animal lovers!**



**P.A.C.T.**

PACT Animal Sanctuary's Watton charity shop needs your help!

Would you be happy to help prepare and steam women's clothes and give at least 3 hours of your time each week?

If so, please telephone Pat or Katie at the shop between 10am & 4pm on (01953) 883883

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*Paul Fleet*

### **Can you spare time to help a great cause?**



Paul Fleet, Senior Community Fundraising for the British Red Cross, is encouraging people of Norfolk and Suffolk to give up at least an hour of their time to help during Red Cross Week in May. Collections will be taking part in supermarkets and town centres across both counties as well as other fundraising events. To find out more please go to:

[www.redcross.org.uk/Get-involved/RedCrossWeek](http://www.redcross.org.uk/Get-involved/RedCrossWeek)

If you can volunteer or fundraise in ANY way, please get in touch with Paul

Phone: 01603 253412

Email: [pfleet@redcross.org.uk](mailto:pfleet@redcross.org.uk)

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*Editor*

**Free** – One motorized rise/recline armchair.  
Contact 883745 for details.

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## The Fuel Trust

*Janet Armstrong*

The *Ovington Fuel Allotment* is a charitable trust originally set up to help parishioners with winter fuel. At its discretion it can make grants to support the people of Ovington to help them when their individual finances are in stress. For example this might be an emergency roof repair or the cost of new school uniform.

The Fuel Trust has made significant contributions to larger projects which help the village collectively for example the trod and village defibrillator.

The current trustees are in the process of taking professional advice to secure the trust, make it suitable for this century's issues and ensure it can help Ovington long into the future.

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## Allotment Supper

*Krissy Marwood-Cross*

A big thank you to Chris and Lyndia for all the work they put into the allotment dig in supper. It was a tremendously successful evening with very good food and puddings to die for!

The allotment society would like to thank all involved, and we all look forward to the next get together, the summer BBQ.

We still have a couple of plots if anyone would like to put their name forward.

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### **Deadline for next issue: February 21st**

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Ovington, Thetford, Norfolk. IP25 6RT

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Download a large print version from the village web-site.