

The Ovington Oracle

March, 2016



British Summer Time starts on Sunday 27th March.

Clocks go forward one hour, so we miss an hour of sleep but have lighter evenings to do all those outside jobs.

To tire us out the day before the clocks change the **litter pick** is on Easter Saturday 26th March. Young and old, please come and help give the village a spring clean.

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
1 Mar, 7:30pm	Village Hall AGM
2 Mar, 11:00am	Crafters' session, early finish 3:00pm
6 Mar, 9:30am	Lay led Mothering Sunday service (church)
11 Mar, 7:30pm	Public meeting, <i>Our community – our Church</i>
13 Mar, 3:00pm	Afternoon Tea
15 Mar, 7:45pm	Ladies Group
20 Mar, 10:30am	Lay led family Palm Sunday service (church)
23 Mar, 10:00am	Holy Communion for holy week (church)
26 Mar, 10:30am	Litter Pick – meet at village sign
27 Mar, 9:30am	Easter Day holy communion (church)

To book the village hall contact Lyndia Lewis 882222

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Village Lottery

Adrian Malton



The January winners:

1st prize (£10)

James Hardy,

2nd prize (£5)

Harriett Woods

It is not too late to join for the rest of the year - £10 for the next ten draws.

If you have forgotten to renew your membership for this year, please get in touch with Adrian (107 Dereham Road, Watton, IP25 6HA) or anyone on the Village Hall committee, or come to the coffee morning any Monday morning.

The next draw will be on 14th March and will be for 4 prizes: £15, £10, £5 and £5.

Ladies Group

Ann Johnson



Last month we heard about the history of Watton, this month we were fascinated to hear about the history of Swaffham by Sue Gattuso, from Swaffham Museum. She described what Swaffham was like at the time of the Domesday Book (1086) with very few households and illustrated all the changes throughout the centuries

up to the present time. Various characters have influenced the life and wealth of Swaffham, including the Earl of Richmond, who was responsible for free trading; the Peddar of Swaffham – John Chapman, who financed the North Aisle when the present church was built; and Lord Walpole, who started the first Hare Coursing Club in the world on Swaffham Heath. Over the centuries Swaffham has changed from an area of great entertainment, to an area of great fayres, to an area of great auctions. In the 1970's 5,000 people went to Swaffham Market and many of us have fond memories of the local auctioneer, Noel Abel, and he was followed by Tyrone Roberts, who apparently was in the Guinness Book of Records for being the fastest auctioneer in the world.

The competition for the letter 'O' was won by Rosemary for her beautiful vase of orchids.

Next month's meeting is at 7:45pm on Tuesday, 15th March, and is a fun/social evening. The competition will be the letter '**P**'. We shall also have the menus available and will be taking names for the Annual Ladies Group Dinner on Tuesday, 19th April.

Village Litter Pick

Timothy Birt

Spring is nearly here and there is a noticeable deluge of litter!

As usual, it is hoped that this will be a big village effort to give the village a spring clean. We will conclude the morning's exertions with a get together in the village hall to put the world to rights.



The Parish Council has some litter pick equipment, but not enough for the usual turnout so again I have arranged to borrow Breckland Council's kit. This means I have signed my soul away and on no account must anyone hurt themselves or lose any of the equipment!

Easter Saturday, 26 March.

Meet by the village sign at 10:30am

Textiles: Don't throw them away

Grace Rumsby

All your unwanted textiles can be used again no matter what condition they are in.

Many people think that worn out items are only fit for the bin in fact holey jumpers, holey trousers, underwear, odd socks, thin sheets, broken belts, worn out towels, cushion covers, curtains, shoes, and boots can all be recycled.

Never put these items in your rubbish bin so they go to landfill (about 350,000 tonnes every year in the UK). It is bad for our environment, costs us all money and simply isn't sustainable. Worn out textiles can be recycled into materials for sofa padding or insulation for buildings.

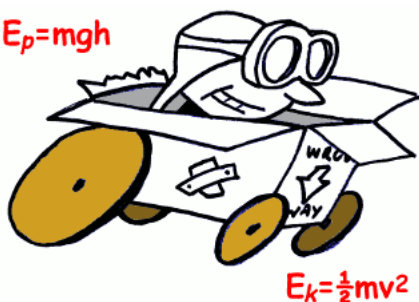
Please bag them up and put them in our clothes bank which is situated near the village hall. Also instead of putting your bottles in your black bin take them to the village bottle bank.

The village hall receives credits for these recycled materials.

Wacky Scrappy Gravity Race

Timothy Birt

$$E_p = mgh$$



$$E_k = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$$

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.

For more information including 'the rules', track location map, construction examples and an application form, see:

www.ovington.org.uk

We need at least a dozen competitors to make it fun so please complete your application before the end of March so that we can plan the day.

Team/cart name:

Name:

Address:

.....

Email:

Tel / mob:

Please include a cheque for £5 made payable to "Ovington Parish Council" who are arranging the road closure and basic public liability insurance. Return your application before end of March to:
Timothy Birt, Stone House Farm, The Street, Ovington. IP25 6RT

Our Community – Our Church

John Hardy & Chris Springford

Summary

Following the granting of a £220,000 award to St John's Ovington PCC by the Heritage Lottery Fund, work has begun on the *Investigation and Development* stage of the project to detail how the work will be done. This involves planning, obtaining costs from specialists, identifying resources needed and developing curricula and expected learning outcomes for schools projects.

An open-evening was originally held in the village in 2012 to outline the scope and plans that were to be submitted to the HLF in our bid to secure funding. Our bid was based on these plans. On 22 January 2016, following the award, a further meeting was held in the Village Hall, confirming that most of what we had applied for was covered by the award.

Under the banner of 'Our Community – Our Church' the development of plans falls into two distinct parts: Architectural restoration of the church building and Community projects involving all the village organisations and eight local 'cluster' schools – to study the history and ecology of the church and surrounds, prepare an exhibition to track the progress of the project and to provide practical help, with professional direction, to restore the graveyard and to develop a new HLF website to link with the village website.

Next public meeting

A lot of progress has been made with the project following the January open meeting. We would like to present these developments at another open evening on Friday, 11 March at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.



St John's Church

Ann Johnson

Sunday, 6th Mar Lay Led:
10:30am Mothering Sunday Service

Sunday, 20th Mar Lay Led: Family Service for
10:30am Palm Sunday



Wed, 23rd Mar,
10:00am Holy Communion for Holy Week

Sunday, 23rd Mar
9:30am Easter Day Holy Communion

Monday, 28th Mar
1:30pm Church Cleaning

Perhaps we could have a joint effort from the flower ladies to decorate the church for Easter.

Welcome

The Village

A belated welcome to Caroline and Paul who moved to Water End Farm. We hope you will join us in some of the village activities.

We don't use commercial advertising in the Oracle, but there is always time to mention a new village business: Caroline runs www.dogbasics.co.uk an interesting web-site for all dog owners. She asks the question:

Is there a dog walking group in the village? I would be really interested in starting one, I personally prefer to have someone to chat to during my walks, so would love to find some company.

Contact details are on Caroline's web-site.

Parish Council (PC)

Heidi Frary (Clerk) / Timothy Birt

A report of the meeting on 11 February, from notes and the unconfirmed minutes.

Matters Arising from previous minutes

The PC received a reply from Norfolk County Council (NCC) following our comments about the new 50mph zone along the A1075. Councillors felt it did not properly address any of the points and suggestions made, the Clerk will ask for a proper reply.

Planning

3PL/2015/1463/F: Stonehouse Barn, The Street. 'To convert outbuilding to ancillary accommodation'. Cllr Birt declared potential interest as a neighbour and withdrew. Councillors had no objections to conversion but felt that windows on the southern aspect could be seen to change the street scene.

Otterwood Kennels, Saham Toney. The Clerk has received notification that the appeal has changed procedure from a Hearing to an Inquiry.

Financial

Councillors reviewed the current budget status and signed cheques.

Local Plan consultation

The Local Plan will guide planning policy throughout the district until 2037, so it is an important document. Councillors have been working through the consultation documents from some time. This meeting was to agree a formal response so that a lengthy list of comments and suggestions could be submitted to Breckland Council. Generally, Councillors were disturbed by inconsistencies and very poor policy wording.

For reference the plan includes the sustainable development objective:

Sustainable development is about facilitating the creation of jobs and homes, improving the conditions in which people live, work, travel and take leisure, creating the conditions for better design and achieving gains in nature.

Summary of PC's introductory comments:

1. Councillors found the excessive use of the word “appropriate” tedious and felt it made policies ambiguous and far weaker. In some cases policies were so badly written that they could be interpreted to have the opposite meaning to that intended, for example: in policy PD10 a reduction in health in the best areas would meet the specified target to 'reduce the disparity across the district'.
2. Generally councillors felt the policies promoted the development of new houses but were very weak in all other aspects of sustainability (*see statement above*).
3. Councillors identified a significant mismatch between the required housing totals and the population increase. The number is so big that Breckland may have already allocated sufficient housing to satisfy the '5-year land supply'.

In essence the ONS figures for population growth are less than the number of houses being approved. Since, on average, each house is home to 2½ people there is a massive disparity in housing allocation to meet natural population growth.

This issue was so important it was addressed immediately with the planners, but no satisfactory reply has been received.

Next meeting

3 March at 7:30pm

Village Hall

Christine Reilly

Village Hall AGM

This will be held on Tuesday 1st March at 7:30pm in the village hall. Everyone is welcome to attend and stay for refreshments afterwards.

Craft Session

We are hoping to see more keen crafters this month on Wednesday, 2nd March. It doesn't matter what your craft is, bring it along and enjoy some quality time being creative. This month we will start at 11:00am but will be finishing by 3:00pm as there is a meeting for the HLF in the hall.

Afternoon Tea 13th March

Book your places ASAP. for the 13th March and hear Mr Bryan Thurlow give a brief history of the British Music Halls complete with some favourite songs and monologues. The entertainment starts at 3pm and will be followed by a full afternoon tea at 4pm. Tickets cost £6 per head and can be obtained from 885848 or any Monday morning at the village hall.

What's on Locally

Susan Hollingworth - 01953 880205

The Dragonfly Gallery is launching a new Exhibition for the start of the 2016 season:

'The Essence of Spring'
Mixed Media Art Exhibition

27 February – 12 March

Coffee Morning - Saturday 27th February
10:00-12:30 with home-made cakes!

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



Requests & comments

Volunteer drivers needed

The non-emergency patient transport service in Norfolk is a partnership between ERS Medical and Voluntary Norfolk, providing transport for patients living in Norfolk to hospitals throughout East Anglia and beyond. Our volunteer drivers provide an essential service, transporting up to one hundred patients to their destination each day.

Paul Minchin, our Volunteer Driver's Representative for the Breckland area has been volunteering with the service for many years and says:

"I have always enjoyed meeting people and talking to them and I also enjoying driving – this role is absolutely ideal. In my role as a rep, I want to ensure that drivers are comfortable in their volunteering and will help any driver with any problem."

We would love to hear from caring, calm and reliable individuals with their own car. We are always keen to hear from volunteers happy to go above and beyond the usual, by taking on early morning appointments for patients needing dialysis, and appointments in London. All expenses are reimbursed, and training and support is provided. For more information please call Jules on 01603 883860 or email jules.alderson@voluntarynorfolk.org.uk

Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



I have determined that January's final figure indicated a particularly soggy month, the total was 82.5mm or 3.25"

February to date is just 28mm or 1.1"

[Editor: that gives me a chance to use my one raindrop graphic]

And finally...

Rod

Editor: Our raindrop counter has water themed jokes ...

Water in the carburettor

WIFE: There is trouble with the car. It has water in the carburettor.

HUSBAND: Water in the carburettor? That's ridiculous.

WIFE: I tell you the car has water in the carburettor.

HUSBAND: You don't even know what a carburettor is. I'll check it out. Where's the car?

WIFE: In the river.

Real life Facebook

For those of my generation who do not use Facebook, and cannot comprehend why it exists. I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles.

Therefore every day I walk down the street and tell passers by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom.

I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch and doing what everyone else does every day.

I also listen to their conversations, give them the thumbs up and tell them I like them.

And it works just like Facebook. I already have four people following me: two police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist !!!

Deadline for next issue: March 24th

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oracle@ovington.org.uk

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