



The Ovington Oracle

December, 2016



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

Saturday 10 December
12:00 'til 2:00pm

Come for lunch ... hot home-made soup and filled rolls will be available with a mix of entertainment and stalls.



Diary Dates

All at Village Hall unless otherwise indicated

Mondays, 10:30am	Coffee morning, until 11:30am (not 26th)
Mondays, 1:30pm	Bowls
Mondays, 6:00pm	Breckland Js Junior Choir
4 Dec, 9:30am	Holy Communion (church)
Tue 6 Dec, 7:30pm	HLF public meeting
10 Dec, noon	BAZAAR
18 Dec, 6:00pm	Candlelit Carol Service (church)
20 Dec, 6:45pm	Ladies Group – hot supper
25 Dec, 10:30am	Family Service (church)

To book the village hall contact Lyndia Lewis 882222

Village web-site: www.ovington-village.org.uk



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Letters / Messages

Editor

For those with an earth sciences interest:

The winter solstice is 21 December at 10:44am. Sunrise will continue to get later for a few days after the solstice, however sunset gets later at a faster rate thus making the days longer. Don't expect to notice much because the day length changes by just 6 seconds between the day before and after the solstice.

Tim

--oOo--

I would like to thank all the generous people who have donated bottles for the Ovington Christmas Bazaar Bottle Tombola so far.

To ensure that the majority of participants go home with a wonderful prize we would welcome more donations of bottles. We would be pleased to accept any further donations at 31, The Street.

Thank you.

Grace Rumsby

Ladies Group

Ann Johnson



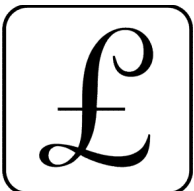
On Tuesday, 15th November, 19 ladies were treated to a cake icing demonstration by Lynne Peters. Lynne showed us three variations of a snowman theme. She also inspired us with various ways of icing and decorating cupcakes, as well as giving us handy tips and ideas throughout the evening.

The competition was a three-way tie with the letter 'U' between Rosemary and her *Urchin Shells*, Christine with her *Ugly Jug* and Joyce with her *Union Jack*. This was the last competition of the year and next month we will announce the member who has accumulated the most points over the year.

Next month, on Tuesday 20th December, we will be celebrating our Christmas Social. Please remember we ask you to come along a little earlier at 6:45pm ready to sit down for a Hot Supper at 7:00pm.

Village Lottery

Adrian Malton



The November winners:

1st prize (£10)	Jeremy Woods;
2nd prize (£5)	Rose Angell

The final draw for this year's lottery will take place at the Bazaar at midday on 10th December. This month there will be 5 prizes!

Adrian will be at the Bazaar signing members up for next year's Village Hall lottery. It only costs £12 for the year and gives you 12 chances for winning at the monthly draws. Please use the form in this month's Oracle, or see Adrian at the Bazaar to join up. The more members we have, the more prizes can be offered. 50% of the subscriptions goes on the prizes, 50% to upkeep of the village hall. Many thanks to our loyal members for their continued support.

St John's Church

Ann Johnson

Sunday, 4 Dec
9:30am Holy Communion

Sunday, 18 Dec
6:00pm Candlelit Carol Service*

Sunday, 25 Dec
10:30am Family Service



* Come along and enjoy our Traditional Candlelit Carol Service. Afterwards we will be enjoying mulled wine and seasonal refreshments.

St John's PCC would like to wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and we sincerely thank all those who have cared for our Church in any way over the last year.

We are looking forward to the Ovington Bazaar on Saturday 10th December 12 – 2:00pm and on to 2017 when we hope our HLF project will commence.

Shipdham Surgery

Carole Playford

From 1 September there were 196 missed appointments, which amounted to 2456 minutes lost. If you cannot keep your appointment, please let the Surgery know as soon as possible, someone else will be glad of the appointment.

It has been noted that some people are using the Surgery car park when visiting the post office/shop. Spaces at the Surgery are limited, particularly at busy times, so if you are visiting the shop, please do not use the Surgery car park. Temporary parking is available on village green.

Please continue to use the suggestion box in the Surgery for constructive comments – they are always considered at the next PPG (Patient Participation Group) meeting, these meetings are held approximately three monthly. Alternatively, comments can be sent via the Oracle editor who will present them at the PPG meeting.

Our Community – Our Church

Chris Springford & John Hardy

Decision time for final funds being granted by The Heritage Lottery Fund for St John's church is very close.

In my last update I indicated we had made our final costed submission to HLF to have funds released to allow physical works to commence on the Church Restoration and Community Projects. Decision date has been indicated as the 8th December. If successful we will have to change up a gear dramatically to activate all aspects of this whole project to have it running to start with the schools during January 2017. HLF will not give the slightest indication of their thinking, but the amount of fine detail that Chris Springford has supplied makes us confidently feel there will be a positive outcome.

In anticipation of a YES on Dec 8th we urgently need help from the village. A public meeting has been called with the village on **Tuesday 6th December at 7:30pm** in the Village Hall. Our Community Project involving seven local schools and potentially eight hundred children coming to our village on structured day visits is a massive project. Come and see what is going to happen, and more importantly how you can help. More hands make light work. It will be rewarding to everybody who participates, no matter at what level.

We are pleased to say our website is now sitting waiting.

www.ovingtonchurch.co.uk

Designed and run by two A level students from the Icen Academy, it will be the communicator of the project to the greater world. This has also been linked to the village website

www.ovington-village.org.uk with which the students are planning a forum discussion section in conjunction with Jeremy Woods



Supported by

The National Lottery®
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Children In Need

Many thanks to everyone who supported the coffee morning at the village hall on the 21st November. Your generosity helped to raise £185.77 for Children In Need. Well done!

Bazaar

As reported in November's Oracle, preparations are well under way for this year's Christmas Bazaar, in aid of both the village hall and the church. Don't miss this annual event, guaranteed to get you in the festive mood. The list of stalls and helpers, so far, has been posted on the noticeboard but any further offers of help will be welcome – just contact Marie Ana on 885019 or any other committee member. Any donations of bottles for the tombola can be given to Rod and Grace before the 9th and any cakes or other goodies can be brought in from 9:00am on the Saturday. We are setting up on the Friday and stall holders can begin decorating their stalls from 2:00pm. Please remember to label home-cooked foods with a list of ingredients in order to comply with new food regulations. Sorry, there will not be any Christmas Trees for sale this year, but we are looking at the practicalities of doing that in the future. If you are new to Ovington, do come along and enjoy one of the main village events of the year. We look forward to meeting friends, old and new.

Gnome-Fest

Garden gnomes will be on sale at the bazaar in preparation for next year's "Gnome-Fest". The idea is that you purchase one of our gnomes, then spend the next few months painting it in whatever style takes your fancy – the wackier the better, as they will be judged by the public at the Wacky Scrappy Races at the village hall in early August. Each gnome costs £5 (to cover cost + contribution to prize money) and comes with instructions on when and where it should be brought to enter the contest. So, unleash your creativity, on your marks, get set, PAINT! You could win a cash prize! See Ed at the Bazaar to purchase your gnome – numbers are limited, so hurry.

Coffee Mornings

Thank you to everyone who has supported the village hall coffee mornings throughout the year. This provides a valued contribution towards the considerable costs of running the hall. We have managed to keep the hall open every Monday morning, bank holidays included. However, there will be no coffee morning on 26 December as everyone probably has better things to do (!), but they will resume on 2nd January. See you all there.

Allotment Association

John Hardy

We are now getting established and looking to do things for the well-being of the plot holders, and the up keep of the allotments.

Several things are looking to be done in the coming year, but firstly it is to make an offer of allotments to the residents of Ovington. These allotments are principally for the use of the village and at present we have a very limited number of plots available. Should you be interested please contact the secretary, her details are below. The remaining plots are let to people in the immediate vicinity, which gives us a wonderful group of friendly people of varying standards who help each other when needed.

We have started having an annual barbecue and mini produce competition which is proving a fun event. Things are being organised on the plots to make it easier for all. We are even looking at an environmental toilet on site to ease the problems for those that spend extended periods on their plots.

Have a go, you are welcome and will be guided if you ask for help if you are new to this.

Secretary contact: Jill Burgess, tel:883879
email: jillburg59@yahoo.com

Parish Council (PC)

Heidi Frary (Clerk) + Timothy Birt

A report from notes and the unconfirmed minutes of the PC meeting on 3 November 2016.

Matters arising

- Councillors were underwhelmed with Breckland Council's latest Local Plan consultation document. Previous comments do not seem to have been addressed and there still seems to be 'woolly' language. Councillors were bemused as to why a particular restaurant was singled out as a "community asset", while the Church and Allotments were ignored.
- The environment agency can't help establish the effect and condition of piped ditches (specifically Church Road).
- Documents promised following Councillors meeting with NCC about the 50mph speed limit change are still outstanding.

Correspondence

- A request from the Allotment Association to cut the hedge will be actioned with volunteer help.
- Better Broadband Norfolk: fibre will be arriving in the village within 6-12 months. The cabinet will be placed at the cross-roads, so there could still be a lengthy copper wire, nevertheless broadband speed should dramatically improve for those who subscribe.

FoI requests

The PC resolved to follow common practice and publish the request and results of FoI requests. This ensures transparency and that information need not be repeated.

Parish footpaths

A copy of an 1803 map has been passed to TB. This will be scanned (for the web-site) and passed on to the Norfolk Records Office. It may be useful to establish further footpaths for the 'definitive map'.

Financial matters

- The PC will enrol the Clerk on the Local Government Pension Scheme.

- The current financial position was scrutinised and cheques signed.
- Contributions were agreed to a number of charitable services which support the community.
- The 2017/18 precept was provisionally reviewed in preparation for detailed examination at the next meeting. As there is no significant additional expenditure it seems likely that the precept will change very little.

Public Participation

Mr Lewis drew Councillor's attention to the increase in traffic volume, speed and the kerb erosion. There is little the PC can do about traffic volume however it was noted that making it as difficult as possible for traffic to get through might make short-cut journeys through the village less attractive. The speed watch team will try to have a session soon.

Next meeting

5 January 2017 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall committee room.

Legal documents at: www.ovingtonpc.wixsite.com/home

Policing budget consultation

Sarah Sutton (Norfolk Police)

Norfolk's Police and Crime Commissioner, Lorne Green, wants your views before he sets the policing budget for 2017/18 and, with it, how much you contribute through council tax.

You can share your views by telephone: 01953 424455, by email: TellLorne@norfolk.pnn.police.uk or, post: OPCCN, Building 8, Falconers Chase, Wymondham, NR18 0WW.

An consultation briefing pack and online survey are at:

www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk/budget-consultation

Editor: *this was received at short notice and there is not much time to reply, deadline for response is Friday 9 December. There isn't much choice as you have only two available options zero increase or 2% council tax increase (heavily promoted), however there is a 'comments' box, so maybe there are more options?*

Local Conservation Task

Suzanne Rhind

Free, Fun Conservation Activities for 12-19 year-olds this Christmas

TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) are hosting a free 3 day practical conservation activity for 12-19 year-olds in the Watton area over the Christmas holidays. Following a successful session during half term, where the area next to the Bridle Road play area in Watton was tidied and improved, the team are back in town to take on another practical conservation task.

Young volunteers will get the opportunity to learn new skills, have fun and make a positive difference in the community. This is a great excuse to get outdoors over the festive period! The first 20 young people taking part in the scheme will get a £25 voucher to use at Watton Sports Centre.

The activity days will run from Monday 19th – Wednesday 21st December, 10:15am – 2:15pm. Booking is essential. For more information or to book a place, please contact Debbie Murray at TCV on 01603 274512 / 07740 899691 / d.murray@tcv.org.uk .

This activity is funded through the Breckland Youth Advisory Board and is in partnership with the Wayland Growing Together project, Watton Sports Centre and Watton Town Council.

Rainfall

“Slightly Soggy” Rod



October:- 41mm or 1.61" this final reading for October was only 3mm up on the mid month readings published in this month's Oracle.

November:- 57.5mm or 2.26" and it's still raining. So far (20th Nov) we have only had six days without rain.

What's on Elsewhere

Bar Pritchard



Swaffham Jazz Club:

The next session will feature 'Four4Jazz' - plus 2! Trad & Swing band with vocals.

Tuesday 13 December at 7:30pm, Cost £5 at Swaffham Conservative Social Club: 23 London Rd PE37 7DD

Please note there is no session in January but we recommence for 2017 on Tuesday 14 February at 7:30pm.

More information: bargeoff@yahoo.com or Norman 01760 722384

Susan Hollingworth

'All I Want For Christmas'

celebrating the Christmas Season
Mixed Media Art Exhibition

Our Christmas Exhibition will run from
19 November through to 17 December



We will have original art, ceramics, jewellery, glass, mosaics, textiles and many more interesting items.

Unique Christmas gifts in one space, a warm welcome awaits you.

- Original Paintings - Prints - Photographs - Crafts - Gifts - Greeting Cards -

Wayland House, High St, Watton, Norfolk, IP25 6AR
Monday - Friday 10:00-4:00pm, Saturday 10:00-1:00pm
Contact Susan: 01953 880205, susan@wayland.org.uk

Tim Cara

Friends of
Dereham
Memorial
Hall



Fri 9 December:

Dance Party with **The Sweetbeats.**

Last year's party was terrific fun. Come with your friends for a fantastic night with East Anglia's premier party band.

It's party time, folks ! £10

www.derehammemorialhall.co.uk

And finally ...

Rod



Jokes: (contributions always welcome)

I try to avoid things that make me fat ... like mirrors, photographs and scales.

Did you know:

Did you know that in 1936 there were 48 residences in Ovington, today there are 99, but the population remains at 227.



Did you know that the most northerly house in the parish of Ovington is over the hill in King Row.

Did you know that the Church Font originally came from Watton Church and the original Ovington Font is now in Shipdham Church.

Deadline for next issue: 22 December

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oracle@ovington.org.uk

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