

# The Ovington Oracle

January, 2017

## Happy New Year, welcome to 2017!

You may have noticed the bus stops on the main road have been finished and the flags installed. This was part of a 'parish partnership' project between Ovington Parish Council and Norfolk County Council.

The PC are always open to hear suggestions for other improvements.

Logic will get you from A to B.  
Imagination will take you  
everywhere.

Albert Einstein

## 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
5 Jan, 7:30pm	Parish Council
15 Jan, 10:30am	Family Service (church)
17 Jan, 7:45pm	Ladies Group
29 Jan, 10:30am	Group service - Holy Communion (church)

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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## Ladies Group

*Ann Johnson*



On Tuesday, 20th December, the Ladies Group concluded their year with the Christmas Social. This was a wonderful occasion and we thank all the committee who worked hard to make the evening special. We also thank The Harmonettes who enhanced the evening with their beautiful singing.

The winner of the Annual Shield for gaining the most points in the competitions throughout the year was Hilda Kidell.

Next month, on Tuesday 17 January at 7:45pm, we welcome the Rev Gerry Foster who will talk about "the life in the day of ...." Gerry is lovely and I think this will be a very light-hearted but interesting evening.

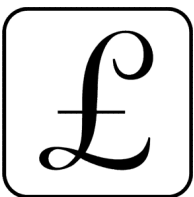
As we have nearly exhausted the letters in the alphabet for the competitions, for 2017, we shall move on to colours and in January it will be "**white**". Anyone wishing to join our group would be most welcome to come and join us. We meet at 7:45pm on the third Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise stated in the Oracle.

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## Village Lottery

*Adrian Malton*

The final 2016 draw took place at the Christmas Bazaar, the winners were:



1st prize (£25)	no.3 - Terry Rands;
2nd prize (£20)	no.13 - Rod Rumsby;
3rd prize (£15)	no.26 - Simon Hardy;
4th prize (£10)	no.28 - James Hardy;
5th prize (£7)	no.31 - Jared Tomkins.

If you have not already joined the lottery for 2017 please do so. The cost is £12 for the year and the more people in it, the greater the prizes.

Please call in to one of the Monday coffee mornings, or drop a cheque or cash through my letter box, 107 Dereham Road. The first draw of 2017 is on Monday 16 January.

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# St John's Church

*Ann Johnson*

Sunday, 15 Jan  
10:30am Family Service

Monday, 23 Jan  
1:30pm Church cleaning

Sunday, 29 Jan  
10:30am Group Service\* of Holy Communion



\* We look forward to welcoming our friends from Ashill, Carbrooke, Saham and Watton to this very special service. It's a while since we had a Group Service at St John's but let's make this a memorable one.

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 have received some lovely comments about how well cared for the church and churchyard have looked and we look forward with great excitement to the commencing of our Community Schools Project and the repairs to our church, in 2017.

What a wonderful time we had at the recent Carol Service – possibly one of the best ever! We thank all who made it special. Jean for leading it, Jeremy for assisting and Gudrun for playing the organ, The Harmonettes for their beautiful singing, those who read the lessons, those who had decorated the church which looked so special and of course those who provided and served the very welcome mulled wine and seasonal refreshments.

£20.10 has been paid to the Leprosy Mission from the emptying of the collection boxes. The Leprosy Mission's first hospital was established in 1888. More than 300 people queue to see two doctors there every day. Someone is diagnosed with leprosy every two minutes and 3 million people live with permanent disability caused by leprosy. Sadly, the number of people holding collection boxes has dramatically reduced but if you can spare some loose change to regularly pop into a collecting box, please contact me.

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## Village Hall

Christine Reilly

### Bazaar feedback

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the village Christmas bazaar such an enjoyable event and financial success. The church and the village hall each received £454.80 – which is very slightly higher than last year. It was good to see so many people from Ovington and the surrounding area and it made a lovely start to the festive season.

The final breakdown was: Refreshments £59.87, Soups £114.07, Hampers £82.00, Lucky Dip £35.00, Crafts £190.90, Children's Tombola £43.00, Weight of Cake £15.00, Tombola £101.00, Gifts £59.35, Cakes £54.50, Raffle £158.00 (total £912.69, less costs £3.09): final total £909.60.

### Coffee mornings

Resume every Monday from 2 January at 10:30 am. Come along to enjoy coffee or tea (and usually a bite to eat) while catching up with what's going on locally. If you missed the opportunity to purchase a gnome for the summer Gnome-fest competition, we still have a few available at £5 each from the village hall at coffee mornings or ring Ed on 01953 885848. Get creative – there will be cash prizes!

We hope to have a few Sunday afternoon teas in early spring, so watch this space for details.

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## Rainfall

*"Mildly Moist" Rod*



The total for November was 67.5 mm or 2.65" near as dammit. (We had no rain between 21st November and 9th December)

For December so far we are talking of 16.5mm or 0.65". I can hear you ask if that's all the rain we've had, why is my garden so wet? Can't answer that I'm afraid, must be something to do with the weather.

Happy Christmas and a slightly less soggy New Year.

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# Our Community – Our Church

*Chris Springford & John Hardy*

## **We have the HLF funds The project is now REALITY**

December 8 was a good day for St John the Evangelist Church Ovington. Funds have now been released to allow urgent work to go ahead to repair the structure of the church, updating internal works, and all the Community projects. As usual there is a huge amount of official paperwork moving around to allow this to all happen, but things will start happening in some areas.

Physical work on the church is not expected to commence till March/April, and planning is already in place to make sure it does not upset two weddings that are due to take place during 2017. At the same time rapid action is moving everything to a ready position to welcome the Thompson School on Friday 27, 2017 as the first school taking part in the community project.

The Heritage Lottery have been particularly taken by our adventurous and comprehensive programme with the schools when the children are on site, and I am pleased to say so have the community that have been spoken to.

I am over whelmed suddenly with the offers of support no matter how big or small which are very gratefully received, but initially I apologise as some of your names may have been mislaid. Do not hesitate to contact me again to reaffirm your offers.

January is when we want to familiarise as many people as possible with the project so it will be fun for them, but more importantly fun for the children.

### **Dates**

#### **1. Early Jan (TBC)**

Sorting all the equipment in village hall into activity boxes for various age group activities. Chance to see the full comprehensive range provided for the children

## **2. Jan 20 Training Day**

Designed specifically for the leaders to practice the curriculum programme prepared, but we want as many helpers to attend as possible to get a chance to see the activities and take part. The day starts with meeting up and seeing what is on site 9:00 – 9:30am with coffee. 9:30 – 10:30am Safeguarding Training – This is not onerous, but very important to hear. We are being given the responsibility of overseeing these children. 10:30am – 14:30pm. The training programme. This is in the village hall. Lunch and refreshments are provided. If you can only come for parts of this programme no problem, we have contingency plans to help

## **3. Jan 27 Thompson School**

The first official school visit

## **4. Village/Church history and heritage TBC**

A series of informal social meetings are hoped to be arranged to gather and update what has happened in Ovington in the past

Very sorry this is a long one, but this is all going to be good for our village and everyone involved and fun. To offer help in anyway contact me, John Hardy

email: [john.chris@byte.org.uk](mailto:john.chris@byte.org.uk) or tel: 01953 889920.

Our new website will become more active in the New Year, see

[www.ovingtonchurch.co.uk](http://www.ovingtonchurch.co.uk)

or via a link from the main village website

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

**Happy Christmas and a  
Healthy and Prosperous New Year to everybody.**

*John Hardy & Chris Springford*



Supported by

**The National Lottery®**

through the Heritage Lottery Fund



### Highways meeting

We meet with Highways regularly to discuss concerns about the village infrastructure, we keep a list of such issues as we notice them or they are reported to us, so please keep letting us know when you spot something. Here is feedback on just a few of the many items discussed:

- The new sign post (galvanised) has been ordered for the junction Church Road/The Street along with the removal of old foundation and stump. The pothole nearby at the junction will be repaired [*done*].
- The 'weird' repair along The Street was an error by the highways works team.
- It was noted the cracked kerb near 1 The Street is still awaiting ordering, as it was classed a lower priority defect.
- As previously discussed work to try and reduce encroachment onto grass verges is on going, however building back the verge will remain a long term ambition. Recognising it is important to maintain the verges for pedestrian safety, future road repairs will try to use planning or a compacted material to fill to try to bring the edge back away from the ditches. Kerbing in its entirety would certainly be beyond budgets at present, there could be scope to consider if some localised kerbing and offlets at the grips would help redefine the line/width of the carriageway. The PC and highways are jointly investigating funding options.
- The surface dressing list indicates that provisionally (dependant on funding at the time) The Street, Carbrooke Road and Church Road are on the 2018 list.
- The highways officer noted the local desire of 'going to' the original road line/detail about the edges and also your summer karting events on Church Road.
- Speed of traffic was again discussed and disbelief noted at the new speed restrictions and signage. Councillors suggested that the 'national restrictions' sign at the cross roads could encourage higher speeds along Saham Road.



## Next meeting

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

Legal documents at: [www.ovingtonpc.wixsite.com/home](http://www.ovingtonpc.wixsite.com/home)

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## What's on Elsewhere

*Pamela Morgan*

### **The Growing Together Project: Acorn Fair.**

In conjunction with The Wayland Partnership, funded by the people's postcode lottery at Queen's Hall, Watton Saturday 21 January, 10:00am til 2:00pm



Promote all aspects of conservation, wildlife and the natural world, come along and see which project your community is taking part in with local maps, photographs and information. There will also be a display of Julian Horn's excellent archive photographs entitled 'Loch Neaton Nostalgia.'

There will be lots of activities for young and old alike including workshops to encourage children to 'go wild' in the great outdoors and connect with nature. Come along and learn about such diverse subjects as 'the wonders of wormeries', and the art of composting. Discover all about the natural habitat of The Breck's and its diverse wildlife, including a photographic exhibition and stands from all the major wildlife and conservation charities.

All the old favourites of tombola, lucky dips, arts and crafts will be on offer plus the chance to plant a daffodil and make a wish, or Grow an Oak Tree from our acorns. If the January weather brings a lovely crisp, chilly day bacon rolls and steaming mugs of hot chocolate, tea and coffee will be on sale.

Friends of  
Dereham  
Memorial  
Hall



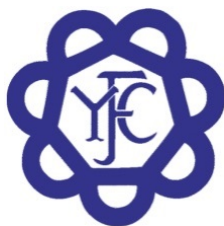
**Saturday 21 January** straight from Norwich Theatre Royal **Joe Ringer and his Band** in support of the phenomenal N+N Liver Group. Hits from the 60s and everywhere else, terrific entertainment and a great night out for only £15 per ticket.

**Friday 27 January** We've teamed with **Falling Starr Wrestling**, the grapple and grunt merchants have been taking their shows to venues all over Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridge for five years and have built a large and enthusiastic following. Tickets are £12 adults, £8 children or £35 for a family of 2+2 and are available from [www.fswrestling.co.uk](http://www.fswrestling.co.uk) or by phoning 07866796079.

[www.derehammemorialhall.co.uk](http://www.derehammemorialhall.co.uk)

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Clare Rowling



Recommendation:

One of my children is a member of Attleborough Countrysiders which meet fortnightly, usually at Gt Ellingham Recreation Hall, NR17 1HY, from 7:00 to 8:30pm on a Tuesday. He has a fantastic time as a member of the "young" section of Norfolk Young Farmers, learning a wide range of life skills and meeting new people.

Members take part in a wide variety of activities. These range from making pizzas to farm visits, dodgeball to sailing, there really is something for everyone! The many clubs around Norfolk often come together to compete at big competition days. There are the more serious public speaking competitions along with the fun of indoor hockey or egg catching! We hold a Countrysiders Conservation Campout every year and a fabulous Countrysiders Dinner Dance with a 3 course meal, a free 'bar' and dancing 'til late.

There are also branches at Dereham (meeting Monday) and Swaffham (meeting Wednesday).

More information at: [www.norfolkyfc.org/countrysiders](http://www.norfolkyfc.org/countrysiders)

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## Letters / Messages

*Editor*

Continuing a regular commentary on solar events which have a direct influence on our seasons:

**Perihelion** takes place at 14:17pm on 4 January. This is the point at which the earth makes its closest approach to the sun on its slightly elliptical, year long orbit. We receive a little more warmth from the sun which means our winters are not quite as cold as they would otherwise be – hurray for us in the northern hemisphere.

--oOo--

Rod and Grace thank all you lovely people for the Christmas Cards you have sent us.

To continue a theme which we started several years ago, we shall not be sending cards but will make a donation to a recognised charity. This year, for obvious reasons, we shall donate to The British Heart Foundation and Papworth Hospital (Cardiology).

Thank you again and we do hope you have a splendid Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Grace & Rod

--oOo--

Thank you for all the Christmas greetings we received. This year in lieu of cards we have made a charity donation to the Salvation Army, who support many people at Christmas, especially the lonely and homeless. We wish everyone a very happy new year.

Linda & Tim

### Editor's note:

A big thank you to all the contributors to the Oracle and the team who deliver in all weathers. Very advanced notice in December 2017 we will have a page for any Christmas messages. During the year if you would like a personal birthday, anniversary or celebration acknowledged please let us know.

## And finally ...

Rod



A saga has been ongoing for many, many years and I doubt any but a few villagers can recall the reasons for it. I have to warn you that after a period of relative peace 'tween Ovington & Saham Toney negotiations concerning the legal ownership of certain historical remains have broken down.

This is despite attempts to bring seasonal cheer and good will to the people of Saham. There is a prospect of conflict again, so this is a call to arms all of Ovington's able bodied and an alert for the Navy to stand by with a full head of steam and cannons primed.

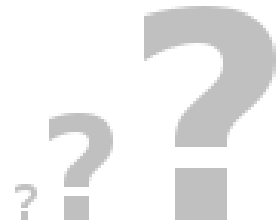
Space is limited in our newsletter to give a full explanation, but if anyone would like the complete story of this conflict I shall be only too glad to relate the tragic circumstances that led to this difference of opinion (PS: it is a "three bottle" explanation).

*[Editor: Rod, are you sure this isn't just an excuse for a mardle?]*

### **Did you know ...**

#### Air Crash:

A German Heinkel Bomber crashed in the village near Waterend Farm on 18 Feb 1941, having been brought down by a PAC (parachute and cable rocket apparatus) protecting Watton Airfield.



#### Size:

The parish of Ovington covers an area of just 6.44 km<sup>2</sup> or 2.49 sq mile.

### **Deadline for next issue: 23 January**

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