

The Ovington Oracle

February, 2017

The Sky is low — the Clouds are mean.

A Travelling Flake of Snow
Across a Barn or through a Rut
Debates if it will go -

A Narrow Wind complains all Day
How some one treated him
Nature, like Us is sometimes caught
Without her Diadem.

Emily Dickinson,
Published: 1890

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
29 Jan, 10:30am	Group service - Holy Communion (church)
5 Feb, 9:30am	Holy Communion (church)
19 Feb, 10:30am	All Age Service (church)
21 Feb, 7:45pm	Ladies Group
24 Feb, 7:30pm	Buffet Supper - Ladies group (41 The St.)

To book the village hall contact Lyndia Lewis 882222

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Ladies Group

Ann Johnson



On Tuesday, 17 January, 19 ladies were treated to a very interesting talk from the Rev'd Gerry Foster. Gerry brought pictures of her family with her, mentioned briefly her past work as a nurse and gave us a wonderful insight into many different aspects of her life now as Vicar of Watton. Gerry is very energetic and amazed us by what she fits into each day and shows such empathy to everyone she meets.

The competition was won by Maureen with her charming snowdrops.

Next month, on Tuesday 21 February, at 7:45pm, we 'Go Potty' with Crafty Christine. This should be a fun evening decorating pots. The competition will be the colour **Red**.

On Friday, 24 February, at 7:00 for 7:30pm, we will be having a Buffet Supper at the home of Rose & Geoff Angell. Tickets will be £7.50 which will include the first drink. There will also be a raffle. Do come and support this evening as it is the main fund-raiser of the year, but will also be great fun.

Village Lottery

Adrian Malton

Lottery winners for January:



1st prize (£10) Steve Jones;

2nd prize (£5) Sam Scott

So far this year, only 46 people have signed up for the lottery which will mean fewer and/or smaller prizes, particularly at the quarterly and end of year draws. Please consider joining (or re-joining) as it will boost the prizes at the same time as supporting the running of the village hall. It only costs £1 per month. Contact Adrian (881053) or any committee member at the Monday coffee mornings for a membership form.

St John's Church

Ann Johnson

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

Sunday, 5 Feb
9:30am Holy Communion

Sunday, 19 Feb
10:30am All Age Worship

Monday, 27 Feb
1:30pm Church cleaning



* We are looking forward to welcoming our friends from Ashill, Carbrooke, Saham and Watton at this special Group Service. Refreshments will be served in the Village Hall after the service.

Ovington Allotment Curry Night

Jill Burgess

On Saturday 11 March at 7:30pm in the village hall we will be holding a Curry Night get together and you are all invited. We will be serving a choice of curries including vegetarian and just in case you don't like a curry!!!! also a sweet and sour option.

Please feel free to bring your own bottles and come and join us for a fun evening. If you would like to join us for a small donation of £8!! Please either contact:

Jill on 883879,
Harriett on 881223 or
Joyce on 883953.

Village Hall

Christine Reilly

Give a Gnome a home!

If you missed the opportunity at our Christmas Bazaar, you are not too late to join in the fun for this year's Gnome-Art Competition. Purchase a gnome for only £5, paint or decorate it in whatever way inspires you, then return it to the village hall for judging on the 5 August at the Wacky Scrappy Gravity Races. The public will vote for their favourite gnomes and cash prizes will be awarded. (Your gnome will be returned to you after the event if you so wish.) Contact Ed on 885848 to purchase a gnome – hurry, numbers are limited! They will also be available at coffee mornings, every Monday 10:30 onwards. So, what are you waiting for? Get creative!

Village helpers

For those of you who are new to Ovington, the village hall needs everyone's support in order to maintain it and provide a social facility for the village. There are many ways in which you can help. Joining the VH Lottery is one. Another is by depositing textiles and glass in the recycling bins outside the hall. If you put your empty bottles and jars in your grey bin, then Breckland Council benefits from the credits. If you use our bottle bank, then the money goes to YOUR village hall. If you can spare any time and manpower during the growing season, help will always be appreciated with grass and hedge cutting. Finally, come along to our AGM on 9 March at 7:30pm and air your views on what you would like to see at the hall. You don't have to join the committee, but more members are always welcome to share the workload!

Soup & Sale

On Saturday 4th March we will be serving home-made soups for lunch between 11:30am and 2:00pm. Come along for a light lunch or coffee and cake, then pick up a bargain from the bric-a-brac and gift stalls. There will also be a large book stall with even more bargains on offer. All proceeds will go to village hall funds.

Fire

Jeremy Woods

A report on the major fire in Ovington:

On 12 January at about 3:30pm a fire started at 11 The Street, when a shed and fuel tank caught fire behind the house. The first fire brigade appliance arrived swiftly and within an hour fire engines from Watton, Dereham, Hethersett, Sprowston, Thetford, and a water bowser, together with the police, all arrived. The fire hydrant opposite the fire proved inadequate, with low water pressure and the one in Church Road was used, as well as one on the Watton Road to refill the bowser. The Street, Church Road and Carbrooke Road were closed to traffic. As the blaze developed, No 9 had to be evacuated. The three dogs there were brought out and a search was made for the 5 cats in the house. Sadly one was brought out unconscious in its basket, but in spite of valiant efforts by the fire brigade to revive her, she died from the effects of the smoke, which was very intense.

By 7:00pm the fire had been stopped and the damage could be seen. The shed was completely burnt out and there was damage to the main house as well as the roof next door. In addition, a car was also badly damaged. The final result is such that No 11 cannot be used for about 6 months and No 9 has suffered both smoke and structural damage.

Our sympathies go out to Mat and Jane and family in No 11 and Sara and Graham in No 9 and their cats and dogs.

Rainfall

Rod - "drying out"



Total rainfall for December 2016 was 22.5mm or 0.88" that brings the total for 2016 to 730.5mm or 28.75"

Rain up to 20th Jan 2017 stands at 25.5mm or 1" this includes 4mm of snow on Friday 13.

Parish Council (PC)

Heidi Frary (and Timothy Birt)

Notes from the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting on 5 January, 2017:

The PC had considered applying for funding from a pot of money ring-fenced for sports equipment, two items were considered a 5-a-side goalpost and an outdoor table-tennis set. Further investigation indicated that installation of either would require the PC to have an annual safety check and increased insurance premiums. It was not possible to verify usage would be high enough to justify the additional on-going expense, therefore the PC decided not to proceed at this time.

The PC were asked to comment on the quality of Capita's running of Breckland's planning department – a forthright reply was submitted.

As part of the PC's Governance programme, the following policy documents were reviewed: Disciplinary, Equalities, Financial Regulations, Grievance, Pension, Standing orders, Training and Travel & Expenses.

The parish accounts were reviewed and cheques signed.

The PC is required to submit a balanced budget as part of the Council Tax precept calculation. The parish contribution is a tiny part of the overall Council Tax charge, being £4114 for the 2017-18 year.

Next meeting

2 March 2017 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall committee room. Items for discussion will include the Wacky Scrappy Gravity Race 2017

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

What's happening nearby

Pamela Morgan

Churchyard Surveys for Wayland Villages

The Wayland Partnership 'Growing Together Project' is delighted to be able to support the County Wildlife Action Project, Churchyard Surveys 2017. Working in conjunction with Gemma Walker, Project Officer with Norfolk Wildlife Trust and a team of local volunteers, our objective is to survey all our beautiful Wayland Churchyards, identifying and recording the plant life that we discover. For your information Norfolk Wildlife Trust local Breckland Group will be holding a talk by Gemma on 'wildlife being recorded in local sites and churchyards'. This will take place on Wednesday 15 March, 7:30 – 9:30pm, at Watton Christian Community Centre, High Street, Watton, IP25 6AB. The cost is £3 for non-members and includes refreshments. Another diary date is the training/introduction day for volunteers which will be held on Saturday April 8, venue Wayland House, High Street, Watton, running from 10:00am–1:00pm.

To find out more about becoming a Community Wildlife Surveyor please contact Gemma
email: gemmaw@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk or
phone: 01603 625540.

Jan Godfrey

WAYLAND DEMENTIA CAFE



TABLE TOP SALE

Saturday February 11th 10-12
Watton Christian Community Centre
Wide range of items Including:

clothes, books, crafts, plants,
bric-a-brac, cakes, etc.

Refreshments

Grand Raffle

PROCEEDS TO WAYLAND DEMENTIA CAFE

For info contact
The Wayland Partnership
Wayland House, Watton 01953 883915

WAYLAND IS A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

Wayland Dementia Cafe

The Dementia Cafe Volunteers are planning an event to raise funds to meet the on-going venue costs which are £96 a month and to help fund occasional outings and social events.

11 February, 10:00-12:00 noon



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(International & interdenominational)

FRIDAY 3rd March 2017

At 10:30am at St Mary's Church, Church Road, Watton IP25 6DQ

Am I Being Unfair to You?

On Friday 3 March over 5,000 services will be held in the British Isles on the theme of 'Am I Being Unfair to You?' The Christian women of the Philippines wrote the service and it has been translated into 1,000 different languages and dialects, to be used, throughout the whole world, on Friday 3rd March, starting at sunrise over the island of Samoa and continuing until sunset off the coast of American Samoa.

Why not find out more about the theme, the Philippines and the service?

The Day of Prayer is not just for women. Everyone is welcome to attend the service and enjoy refreshments afterwards.

Contact details: Margaret Cator 01953 882187/881252

Letters / Messages

Editor

Land for Horses

We have received a request from Shelbie, a young lady who lives in Watton and is looking to rent 4-6 acres of land for her four horses. They are currently near Attleborough, so Shelbie is relying on lifts to visit them. If you can help please contact her on 07787404278.

What's on Elsewhere

Tim Cara

Friends of
Dereham
Memorial
Hall



17 February – '**A Real Mermaid's Tale**',
Enthralling puppet and shadow theatre for
the up to 8 year olds – two shows at 11:30
and 1:30.

£4 children, £6 adults from Bright and
Beautiful Flowers, Wellington Road 01362

288124 or www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/FMEEFK

www.derehammemorialhall.co.uk

Bar Pritchard

Swaffham Jazz

We start back after our January break on February 14
with the Colin Mason Quartet plus 2 guests, George
King on saxes and vocalist Melody from Cambridge.



Starting at 7:30pm the venue is Swaffham Conservative Social
Club, 23 London Rd PE37 7DD entry £6 on the door. Please note
the new price.

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

Our Community – Our Church

Chris Springford & John Hardy

It's real - Training Day Friday 20th January was great

Having been notified we had been granted Heritage Lottery Funds on 8th December 2016 earnest planning was put in action awaiting the release of funds in January 2017.

Purchasing equipment to enable the seven local schools who will be sending in separate groups of their years 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6 has nearly been completed. Thank you to everybody who turned up the week before who came to help sort all the equipment. It was necessary to have boxes for the respective subjects and age groups ready for use. More importantly before we receive the first school children leaders and helpers enjoyed a training day on January 20th.

All organisations that work with or come into contact with children should have safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure that every child can be protected from harm.

Everybody listened carefully to their safeguarding training, but then enjoyed going back to being students. There was an opportunity to have a go at all the skill activities including 'the environment', 'storytelling', 'enacting a baptism' and 'educational fun'. This enabled all to have familiarity of all the children will be participating in when their school visits.

We hope to have some pictures of the day on the website soon

www.ovingtonchurch.co.uk



Supported by

The National Lottery®
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



And finally ...

Boy Sid

"My ole meart Charly hev oonly got wun arm, bless 'im.
He come parst larst week an I say tew him I say "Where
yew orf tew Charly?"



"I'm gooin tew chearnge a lite bulb" He say
I hatter larf. "Thas gooin ter be a bit tricky hent it ole partner"
"Noo" he say "I kept tha receet"

*[Editor: It's the first time we have heard from Boy Sid, I am
told some people can even decipher his local dialect.]*

Rod

VICAR:- Simon, now tell me frankly, do you say your prayers
before eating your meals.

SIMON:- No Vicar, I don't have to, my Mum's a good cook.

Rod

Did you know ...

Back in 1592 the Rev John Trendle, Rector of
Ovington complained to his superior:

*"Of a fellow in his congregation who "interprises"
to keep an unlicensed ale-house, where poor men
spend their thrift, poor women spend their
husbands' earnings ... children are made drunk there, etc. Never
had a tavern before in the village".*



The tavern remained, becoming the Crown Inn.

Deadline for next issue: 20 February

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