

# *The Ovington Oracle*

April, 2017



## 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
2 Apr, 9:30am	Holy Communion (church)
12 Apr, 10:00am	Holy Communion (church)
14 Apr, 10:30am	Good Friday Meditation (church)
16 Apr, 10:30am	Easter Sunday Service (church)
18 Apr, evening	Ladies Group – The Old Bell, Saham Toney
23 Apr, 3:00pm	Afternoon Tea

To book the village hall contact Lyndia Lewis 882222

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## Ladies Group

*Ann Johnson*



On Friday, 24th February, eighteen people, including some husbands and a granddaughter, enjoyed a lovely Buffet Supper at Rose and Geoff's. It was a most enjoyable evening and a big thank you to Rose and Geoff for hosting this event for the third year running. This evening boosted our funds with a profit of £104.92

On Tuesday, 21st March, fifteen members and a guest were 'whisked off' to the other side of the world for an hour to see a 'whistle stop' tour of Vietnam right through the country from the hot climate of the south to the cooler climate, yet spectacular scenery, of the north. Geoff showed a DVD of his and Rose's travels and they both gave us interesting facts and answered questions throughout the evening. Thank you, Geoff and Rosemary, for sharing your wonderful holiday with us. We look forward to possibly seeing a DVD of your next great adventure! The competition was won by Christine with her peeled down banana candle. Yellow proved a difficult colour for entrants other than the lovely yellow flowers showing us that Spring has arrived.

Next month, on Tuesday 18th April we will be holding our Annual Dinner at The Old Bell in Saham Toney. The menu was circulated at the meeting but, if anyone who would like to come and join us, who wasn't at the meeting, please give Christine a ring on 889920 to order your meal. Travel arrangements and times will be circulated nearer the date. There will be no competition.

Donations of raffle prizes gratefully received, please leave with Linda at Stone House Farm, The Street, or bring along to any meeting.

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## St John's Church

*Ann Johnson*

Sunday, 2 Apr

9:30am Holy Communion

Wednesday, 12 Apr

10:00am Holy Communion

Friday, 14 Apr

10:30am Good Friday Meditation

Sunday, 16 Apr

10:30am Easter Sunday Service

Monday, 24 Apr

1:30pm Church cleaning



How wonderful to witness the marriage in St John's Church of two of our own congregation, Stephen and Geraldine. It was a lovely service and the bride and groom looked so happy together. May God bless them greatly in their marriage.

Hopefully the beautiful flowers which Jane did for the wedding will last and still look good for Easter.

Advance date for your diary Saturday 10th June:

Coffee Morning in the Village Hall on, from 10:00am – noon.

All the usual stalls, Raffle, Tombola, Craft, Cakes, Jigsaws, Books, Refreshments etc., more details next month.

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## Norfolk Council Council (NCC) elections

*Editor*

The NCC elections are part of the usual cycle and 4 May will see elections for all 84 seats. Our County division is 'Watton' and polling will take place in the Village Hall between 7:00am and 10:00pm.

Please exercise your democratic right and vote.

Hopefully, you will find a candidate you can support, but if not then you can say so on the ballot paper and your vote will still be recorded under the classification of 'spoilt papers'. This is a surprisingly empowering action when you need it!

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## Shipdham Surgery

*Carole Playford*

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. You can also make comment to the Oracle editor who represents Ovington on the PPG panel.

From December through March, there were 221 missed appointments, which amounted to 3576 minutes lost. Please let the Surgery know as soon as possible if you can not make an appointment, someone else will be glad of your slot.

Parking spaces at the Surgery are limited so if you are visiting the shop, please do not use the Surgery car park. Temporary parking is available on village green. The situation has become sufficiently serious that CCTV/fines could be introduced.

The waiting area is much in need of improvement, various quotations being considered for approval. Many suggestions have been made, including removing carpet and replacing with wipe clean flooring, individual seats with/without arms, TV information screen being examples.

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## Rainfall

*Rod (+ Tim)*



Rainfall for February 2017 was 51.5mm or 2.02"

February was also a dull month, with a solar yield of just 65% of the previous 5-year average.

Thus far for March we have received 38.5mm or 1.53".

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## Village Hall

*Christine Reilly*

### **Afternoon Tea** at the Village Hall, **Sunday 23rd April**

We will be serving a full selection of goodies (sandwiches, pastries and cakes) for Afternoon Tea at the village hall on Sunday 23rd April from 3:00pm (doors open 2:30pm). Call 885848 to book your table as soon as possible as space is limited, or speak to anyone on the committee. Teas proved very popular last year and only cost £6 a head. There will be a raffle and, hopefully, some form of entertainment. All proceeds will go to village hall funds.

### **Ovington Quiz**

The annual quiz will be on Saturday, 6th May at the village hall, starting at **7:00pm**. Teams of 4 are invited to compete, so book your team in as soon as possible on 01953 885848. A light ploughman's supper will be served during the quiz and tickets cost only £6 a head.

### **Recycling**

Please do keep recycling glass and textiles at the village hall, but take note of the instructions on the banks about what cannot be recycled. I recently had to extricate a very large goose-down duvet which was literally jammed into the textile bank, blocking it completely. It took considerable effort to get it out and we then had to drive it to the dump.

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## Breckland District Council By-election results

*Timothy Birt*

Turnout was low at just 18.2%. We welcome Theresa Hewett as our new Breckland Councillor for Saham Toney District Ward. The Parish Council invites her to attend PC meetings.

Full results of 16 March 2017 by-election:

HEWETT, Theresa Ruth (Con)	335
SISTO, Joseph Manuel (Lab)	72
THORPE, Andrew (Lib-Dem)	105
WARWICK, Patricia Helena (Ind)	104
WILLIAMS, David (UKIP)	80

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## Parish Council (PC)

*Heidi Frary (Clerk) + Timothy Birt*

### Report (derived from unconfirmed minutes)

- Arrangements for the annual village litter pick were finalised. A request for help from the village hall committee will be made to assist organising the 'post-picking' refreshments. If anyone has a contribution, please take this to the village hall on Saturday morning.
- Norfolk have made some repairs to road and street furniture, however the hole has reappeared at the junction between The Street / Church Rd / Carbrooke Rd. TB volunteered to repaint the black and white stripes on the new galvanised signpost after the finish has oxidised.
- Barnham Broom have offered to buy our time-share of the SAM2 speed sign. The sign has proved difficult to keep in good repair so councillors were agreeable, especially as there may be an opportunity to use an old SAM sign.
- There was a lengthy discussion about the 2017 Wacky Scrappy Gravity Race and tasks were divided up between Councillors and the Clerk.

### Adjournment for Public Participation

Teresa Hewett and Andrew Thorpe introduced themselves as candidates for the forthcoming district by-election.

A more lengthy discussion took place after the meeting, covering some key Breckland Council issues especially focused around local services, the Planning department and the 'Local plan'.

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

### Next meetings

#### **Annual Parish Meeting**

25 May at 7:30pm. Representatives from the village are invited to report their activities and parishioners may ask questions. Tea & biscuits provided.

This will be followed by a short 'administrative' Parish Council AGM where the chairman is (re)elected.

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## Informal Carers Support

*Jennie Neilson*

Are you caring for a family member or friend?

Maybe you would like some support?

Come and join us, we are all carers, so together we have a wealth of knowledge. We have five meetings a year and our next is on 5 May at Watton Social Club, Dereham Road, Watton IP25 6ER. We have a guest speaker and at the next meeting a lady from Dereham Library will make her second visit and if last time was anything to go by, it will be a very interesting talk. We meet between 10:30am and 2:00pm (we stop for lunch, so bring a sandwich and there is a raffle. We provide tea, coffee and biscuits but you need to bring your own mug!).

So, come along and see what we are about, you will be made welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

For more details tel Jennie Neilson 01953-799857

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## Vacancy

*Jan Godfrey*

Parish Clerk required for Little Cressingham and Threxton Parish Council. Small parish but important role. £350 per annum plus expenses. Further details and applications to:  
[shirley@cranbornehouse.co.uk](mailto:shirley@cranbornehouse.co.uk)

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## Village Lottery

*Adrian Malton*



Lottery winners for March:

1st prize (£10) Jill Burgess;

2nd prize (£5) Geraldine Fosh.



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## Our Community – Our Church

*Chris Springford & John Hardy*

### **It's a running success:**

Well we have finished our first term of the St John Ovington HLF School Project and we can safely say it has been a big success so far. Seven local junior schools have sent over two hundred pupils of various age groups to take part in the interesting fun curriculum we have prepared for them. They leave clutching onto various things they have made or designed, but we have managed to retain some to put on display in the church.

A revolving display of many aspects of the work carried out by the children is there for inspection by all. Little stained glass windows are on display in the plain glassed church windows, drawings and stories of all ages are in folders making interesting reading. Two large friezes are to be a lasting memory of the project in the church, with the large one depicting the seasons around the church and the pupils' personal interpretation which is strongly encouraged

We are having a Refresher Day on Thursday 18th May 10:00am – 12:00 if you would like to come along and see if you would like to join in please do. For members of the village who are unable to help but would like the opportunity to see what happens when the pupils are on-site there is the opportunity. Please contact John Hardy 01953-889920 he will be pleased to show you in small groups the project during the next term that begins Friday 19th May.

It is anticipated the external work on the church will commence at the end of April, internal works will follow. It is planned over a 24 week period, with the building work and the reordering complete before Christmas 2017. This will be preceded by a pre-contract meeting attended by the builders, architect and representatives of the church to check everything is in place as required.

Have a look at the website and see what is going on:

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

there is also a link village website, see 'Church' | 'more details'



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## What's happening nearby

Susan Hollingworth

Mixed Media Exhibition by:  
**Elsing Artists**

1 April to 15 April, free admission

Henri Atkinson: Potter

Judi Graham: Watercolours & Ceramics

Heather Flint: Bespoke Seamstress and Artisan

Susan Jones: Needle Felted Animals

Jean Monahan: Spinner and Weaver



### Exhibition: **The World of Christine Watson**

Saturday 29 April – Saturday 13 May.

A display of, hand made collectors houses and “shop boxes” by Ian Watson. Christine Watson offers a range of paintings, illustrations, greetings cards, prints, story CDs and the launch of a new associated clothing range.

Subjects include seascapes, landscapes and a range of natural studies, including elephants.

Children’s character illustrations will be supported by stories of hedgehogs, polar bears and live holly berries. Jolly Holly® is a European Trademark name, owned by Christine and is the subject of the story CDs set to music.

Christine works in a range of media including gouache, water colour acrylic and digital artwork.

Launch Coffee Morning Saturday 29 April 10:30am – 12:30pm.

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**– Original Paintings – Prints – Photographs – Crafts – Gifts– Greeting Cards –**

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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](mailto:susan@wayland.org.uk)

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## What's on Elsewhere

DTC

### Jonathan Wyatt Big Band in Concert

Dereham Mayor's Charity Event, proceeds to the Norfolk and Norwich Liver Group.



Music from the 40's, Rat Pack shows through to present day.

Booking: The Little Gallery, Norwich St, Dereham Tel 01362-690969

Saturday 15 April, doors open 7:00pm, show starts 7:30pm

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

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Fiona Roat

### Norfolk Wildlife Trust – Breckland Group



We have just finished the Autumn/Winter talks, which were well received, now it's Walks season.

We kick off on Sunday 23 April with a guided walk round the British Trust For Ornithology's Nunnery lakes, including a newly opened section. Meet at BTO HQ, The Nunnery. IP24 2PU at 9:30am for a 10:00am start. the cost is £3 for members and £4 for non-members. Booking is essential, ring 01953 717227.

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Bar Pritchard

### Swaffham Jazz

Colin Mason Quartet with Eleanora vocals & keyboard and Tap Robinson guitar



Tuesday 11 April 7:30pm, entry £6 on the door.

Swaffham Conservative Social Club, 23 London Rd PE37 7DD

More information: [bargeoff@yahoo.com](mailto:bargeoff@yahoo.com) or Norman 01760 722384

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Ken Hawkins

### Dereham Walkers are Welcome Easter events

Easter Saturday (15 April): Simnel Cake walk (6½ mile)

Easter Monday (17 April): Walking in Wonderland (for children)

More details: [www.DerehamWaW.org.uk](http://www.DerehamWaW.org.uk)

## And finally ...

Rod

Here's a bit of a conundrum ...

You find yourself abducted and once the blindfold is removed you are alone in a strange place. You walk due NORTH for one mile, but nothing is recognisable so you turn and walk EAST for one mile, there are still no clues. You turn again and head SOUTH for one further mile and find yourself back where you started, what weird place is this?

Where are you now standing?

*[Editor: Rod has requested that answers be delivered to him on a twenty pound note, we could humour him with 'Monopoly' money.]*

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

That there were at one time sixteen farms in Ovington, can any one name them all?



### **Deadline for next issue: 22 April**

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