

# The Ovington Oracle

September, 2017



Heritage Open Days is a national event running between 7-10 September offering the opportunity to visit some heritage sites for free! There are special events and access to places not normally open.

There is a great search facility on their web-site, with 339 venues or events listed in Norfolk, find out more at:

**[www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)**

## Diary Dates

*All at Village Hall unless otherwise indicated*

Mondays, 10:30am	Coffee morning, until 11:30am
Mondays, 1:30pm	Bowls
3 Sept, 9:30am	Holy Communion (at Village Hall)
3 Sept, noon	Allotment Association BBQ & Produce Show
7 Sept, 7:30pm	Parish Council
17 Sept, 10:30am	Harvest Service (at Village Hall)
19 Sept, 7:45pm	Ladies Group
24 Sept, 5:00pm	Hymns for a Summer Evening
30 Sept, 10:00	Coffee morning in aid of Macmillan

To book the village hall contact Lyndia Lewis 882222

The Oracle can be delivered straight to your email inbox, a PDF version is sent a day or two before the end of the month.

If you live in the village you will still receive the print copy, but if you would like a copy sent this way too, please email:

**[Oracle@ovington.org.uk](mailto:Oracle@ovington.org.uk)**

If you know anyone outside the village who would like an email copy, please get them on the email list.

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

## Contents

Diary Dates.....	1
Ovington Allotment Summer BBQ and Produce Show.....	2
Ladies Group.....	3
Village Lottery.....	3
St John's Church.....	4
Parish Council (PC).....	4
Rainfall.....	4
Village Hall.....	5
Macmillan Coffee Morning.....	5
Wacky Scrappy Gravity Race.....	6
Brave the Shave.....	6
Our Community – Our Church.....	7
Comments to the Editor.....	8
Shipdham Surgery - Flu Vaccination.....	9
Waste “Amnesty” Weekend.....	9
What's happening nearby.....	10
What's on elsewhere.....	11
And finally .....	12

---

### Ovington Allotment Summer BBQ and Produce Show

*Jill Burgess*

On Sunday 3 September at 12 noon we will be holding our annual BBQ and produce competition at the village hall. You are all invited to join us for a lovely BBQ followed by puds. All this for only £6 per head, and as usual it's bring your own bottle and don't forget some money for the raffle! We will be inviting you all to inspect the allotments and choose which you think is the best plot as well as the judges deciding who has the best veggies.

Please contact Jill on 883879 for tickets.

---

## Ladies Group

Ann Johnson



On Tuesday, 15 August, 17 ladies enjoyed a delightful afternoon at Peter Beales Roses at Attleborough. We were welcomed with a cup of tea and slice of Victoria sponge and then enjoyed a very interesting talk from Vaughan Limmer. Vaughan started working for Beales as a boy and, apart from a stint in the Royal Marines and another short employ, has spent all his working life with them. He works with his brother and they both met their wives at Peter Beales in the poly-tunnels! Vaughan and his brother are responsible for the entries each year at the Chelsea Flower Show and Hampton Court Flower Show and, at Chelsea, they have won nine consecutive gold medals – an amazing achievement. Vaughan showed us how a cutting is taken and then thousands of these are planted in the field and then nurtured.

All our names were put into a box and Betty Carr's was lucky enough to be drawn out and her prize was a beautiful white rose named '*MacMillan*'.

We were then taken for a tour of the beautiful well-kept gardens and shown many different rose-beds where Vaughan continued to tell us how to care for the various types of roses and patiently answered all our questions. Vaughan's passion for his work is very evident and reflects the beauty we saw in the gardens. We were blessed with perfect weather which made this a truly lovely outing.

Next month, on Tuesday 19 September, we look forward to hearing all about the Norfolk Wildlife Trust by Caroline Spinks.

The competition will be something **blue**.

---

## Village Lottery

Adrian Malton



Lottery winners for August:

1st prize (£10)	Julia Grover,
2nd prize (£5)	Laura Tomkins.

---

## St John's Church

*Ann Johnson*



Sunday, 3 Sept    Holy Communion  
9:30am    in Village Hall

Sunday, 17 Sept    Harvest Service  
10:30am    in Village Hall

Sunday, 24 Sept    Hymns for a  
5:00pm    Summer Evening

As the church is closed until November there will, unfortunately, be no Harvest Auction at our Harvest Service in the Village Hall.

Also, there will be no access to St John's for anybody taking part in the Norfolk Churches Trust Cycle Ride. However, if any cyclist does bike up to St John's, there will be a form hanging on the railings by the road where they can sign in. We just pray for a fine day for all taking part. If anybody in the village would like to cycle round to the various churches and raise money for St John's Church and the Norfolk Churches Trust then I do have some sponsorship forms available.

---

## Parish Council (PC)

*Heidi Frary*

### **Next meeting**

7 September, 2017 at 7:30pm at the Village Hall committee room.

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

---

## Rainfall

*Rod*



Rainfall for July 2017 was 72mm or 2.8".

So far for August it is 43.5mm or 1.7".

---

## Village Hall

Ed Reilly

### **Gnome-Fest – The Results**

This was an excellent competition with very close results. We had gnomes in the guise of Yoda, Harry Potter, Elvis, Father Christmas, Monty Don – even a lion! Only two points separated the top three positions with Christine Reilly taking first place, followed by Jill Burgess and Alice Ardern-Norris, who all received cash prizes. The next three positions were also separated by only 2 points with Penny McKay, Christine Hardy and Doreen Hill. The skills represented by some entries were exceptional, so very well done to all who entered the competition by painting your gnome.

The village hall raised just over £284 on the day.

### **Bazaar planning**

We will not be holding a planning meeting for the Christmas Bazaar as only the same one or two people ever turn up for it. Instead, please come to a coffee morning in September (every Monday morning from 10:30am) and tell us what you would like to see at your Bazaar this year and how you would like to become involved. If you can't manage Mondays, please contact a committee member.

Very advanced date for your diaries: Friday 16 March 2018 – an evening with two tenors (more details later in the year!).

---

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

Jane Lambert

Hi Everybody,

I will be holding a coffee morning on Saturday 30 September, 10:00am until 1:00pm at The Village Hall.

Any tombola prizes or any cakes will be much appreciated (25 The Street).

Please come and join me for coffee and a slice of cake.

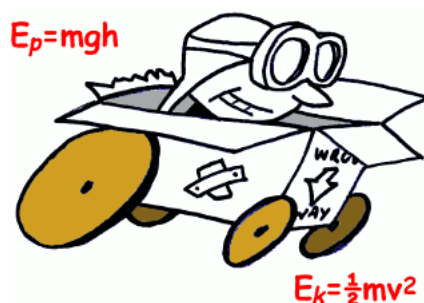
Proceeds in aid of *Macmillan Cancer Support*.

Many thanks, Jane.

---

## Wacky Scrappy Gravity Race

Timothy Birt



The web-site has lots of pictures and descriptions of the racing machines, including two crashes, see:

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

With thanks to: Ovington Parish Council (Rod, Karen, Jeremy, Janet, Tim and our Clerk:Heidi) and also from outside the village David Bowyer and Paul Frary for marshalling, building, fixing, judging and all the jobs needed to make this a success, also to Mr Patience, who has kindly allowed us to use his field as a car park and delivered a trailer load of straw bales.

Thank you Village Hall Committee who made the event a proper day out with a quality BBQ, a "mega tombola" and decorated Gnomes competition which the public were invited to judge.

Further interest came from a one third size steam traction engine, giving rides around the field.

Great work everyone!

---

## Brave the Shave

Karen Weir

A big thank you to **all** involved and the huge success that was the wacky scrappy races! I totally enjoyed doing the commentary, as talking is one of my most favourite things to do!

My 'Brave the shave' for Macmillan update.

As it stands on 17 August my total online is £695.61 and I have £25 to bank, making a running total so far of £720.61.

I am so grateful to all of you for your support, comments and donations. As usual our village has pulled together and worked magic once again.

Apparently, we're doing the racing again next year – without the hair 'trim'! (Unless someone wants to take up the mantle!)

**[bravetheshave.macmillan.org.uk/shavers/karen-weir](http://bravetheshave.macmillan.org.uk/shavers/karen-weir)**

Here you will also find my story, the reason why I did this.

---

## Our Community – Our Church

*John Hardy and Chris Springford*

### **Great Progress**

The schools project is enjoying a well deserved rest during the summer holidays having had about five hundred children through so far, and a further two hundred and fifty to come during the autumn term.

In the meantime a group of about forty-five made up of project helpers, their partners and residents of the village enjoyed and took part in the Project Open Village Meeting on Saturday 19 August. Initially project helpers were able to get their partners and village residents involved in some of the activities that the pupils do during their school's visit.

After lunch everybody was able to get a good insight into the progress of the restoration work being carried out on the church. The site manager of the renovation of the church Rob and his colleague Kelvin first described what they had done so far and what was to be done. Their total understanding of the original materials used in the building of the church and the original building practices used was apparent. They stressed that everything they were repairing was reinstating it as near as possible to its original construction.

Everybody received a detailed description of the repaired drainage system and the flint pointing that was taking place externally. Internally they saw how they had repaired major cracks in the walls, removed and replaced old timbers and repaired the tower roof. Kelvin showed how they made the putty used for the pointing, using original type materials to keep authenticity.

Everybody was impressed at the progress that was been made, and were even able to see some walls that had crumbled badly, now repaired and looking as good as new having had many coats of lime wash

At present everything indicates that the project is keeping to time with completion hopefully in November this year.



Supported by

**The National Lottery®**

through the Heritage Lottery Fund



---

## Comments to the Editor

---

The editor is happy to receive any comments or messages; please say if you do not wish your name to be attached.

---

*Anon*

A vote of thanks to, mainly, John Hardy and Linda Murray for their organisation of Saturdays event and secondly to all those helpers and caterers who laid on the marvellous spread for lunch. It was a most educational, entertaining and informative time.

I spent quite a long time with one of the builders afterwards where I was able to learn a lot more about the structural facets of the building, any thing that can stand with minimal foundations for that length of time draws gasps of admiration for those ancient builders.

---

*Rosemary Philpot*

On Monday 7 August at 1:05pm I was approaching the bend by Town farm going towards Carbrooke, when a car came towards me in the middle of the road. To avoid her I had to steer into the hedge which has left scratches down the whole length of my car.

Fortunately, I was only doing 20mph, if I had been going any faster the outcome could have been more serious.

[**Editor:** This is not an isolated incident, please would anyone who experiences a similar event report it to the police and Parish Council. This helps us build a case for additional road safety measures.]

---

*via Marie-Ana Cave*

In October Bob Cave is part of "Team Caveman" and he is entering the Royal Marine Commando Challenge in Devon. That is 10km across rough ground with major obstacles and challenges, not bad for a 64 year old! Bob was a Marine and 47 years ago this was a part of his day job; if you want to see a youthful picture and him today visit:

**[uk.virginmoneygiving.com/BobCaveCommandoChallenge](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/BobCaveCommandoChallenge)**

While you are there fill in the sponsorship!



---

## Shipdham Surgery - Flu Vaccination

Melissa Greeves

We are now booking appointments for the Flu Vaccination.

Please contact the Surgery to book your slot.

Saturday 23 September 2017

### **Support your practice and have the vaccination with us**

Every flu jab you have elsewhere means  
fewer resources for your GP practice.

The flu vaccination provides the best protection against an unpredictable virus which infects many people and can cause serious illness and death each year.

The vaccination is **free** and recommended **yearly** for those most at risk of flu, who include:

- Children aged 2 to 8 years old\*
- Pregnant women
- Anyone living with a long term medical condition
- Everyone over 65
- People with caring responsibilities

If there is someone you rely on to care for you, please ask them to contact their own GP Practice as they may be eligible for a free flu vaccination.

\*Preschool children aged 2 to 3 years will be vaccinated at their general practice. Children aged 4 to 8 years will usually be vaccinated at school.

---

## Waste “Amnesty” Weekend

Grace Rumsby

**Advanced notice:** Dereham recycling centre (NR19 1JG – enter at *Roys of Dereham* junction) will be holding waste amnesty weekend on October 21 / 22. This is an opportunity for you to dispose of toxic chemicals, preservatives, insecticides, weed killer, paint or varnish which can not normally be left at Norfolk’s recycling centres. Expect long queues early in the day.

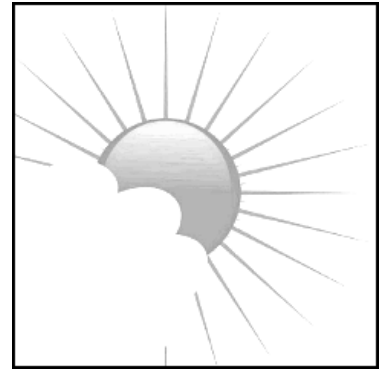
---

## What's happening nearby

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

### Watton Carnival

Watton Carnival is all set to take place on Sunday 3 September along Watton High Street with free admission. This year's theme is '**Enchanted**' leaving lots of scope for imaginations to run riot with astonishing costumes.



The official start is at 11:00am with a special open-air morning service led by Watton Pentecostal Church. Events and activities continue throughout the day including the main procession 1:00pm.

For more details see: [www.wattoncarnival.co.uk](http://www.wattoncarnival.co.uk)

---

*Lea Schiller*



### 'Our Day Out' sessions.

These sessions are part of a programme inclusive to older people to try free and high quality music and dance activities lead by professional artists. The programme is especially supportive of those with early to mid-stage dementia, carers, those who feel isolated and those with long term health problems but everyone is welcome!

Events across Norfolk, but locally at:

Watton Christian Community Centre, 57 High Street, IP25 6AB

Thursday 7 Sept. 2:00pm-4:00pm (Music Workshop)

Thursday 21 Sept, 2:00pm-4:00pm (Tea Dance Event).

More information from: Lea Schiller at Creative Arts East

01953 713390 or email [lea@creativeartseast.co.uk](mailto:lea@creativeartseast.co.uk)

---

## What's on elsewhere

Fiona Roat



### Norfolk Wildlife Trust – Breckland Group

The group had a good morning exploring Lynford Arboretum with Paul Newport in July. Not the busiest time of the year for birds but it's a very nice place to visit and the trees were looking lovely.

Our next outing is a Fungi foray with Dr Tony Leech at East Wretham Reserve on Sunday 24 September from 10:00am until noon. Meet at the car park, IP24 1RJ, cost is £2 for members, £3 for non-members. Booking is essential, ring 01953 717227.

---

Bar Pritchard

### Swaffham Jazz

Tuesday 12 Sept at 7:30pm, £6 on the door.

#### Melody Brooker (vocalist) Quartet

Swaffham Conservative Social Club, 23 London Rd  
PE37 7DD

More information: [bargeoff@yahoo.com](mailto:bargeoff@yahoo.com) or  
Norman 01760 722384 / Geoff: 01366 328730



---

Tim Cara

Friends of  
Dereham  
Memorial  
Hall



Details at:

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

Saturday 9 September, two events:

**Dereham Fringe Festival** 10:00 – 4:00pm

30 local organisations welcome you to the town's mainly free day-long Fringe event.

**Sit down for STAND UP.** Bar opens 7:00pm, show starts 8:30pm

We are delighted to have teamed up with Cosmic Comedy and The Red Card Comedy Club to welcome some national names to The Memorial Hall, just £13. Book any time day or night at

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/dereham](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/dereham)

## And finally ...

Rod (+Tim)

### Wise words ...

"Plan ahead, it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark". (anon)

"The wise speak because they have something to say;  
fools because they have to say something." (Plato)

"If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind,  
then, of what is an empty desk a sign?" (Albert Einstein)

"If I have seen further it is by standing on the  
shoulders of Giants." (Isaac Newton)

### Did you know ...

During the last Ice Age, as the ice pack travelled south it picked up very large rocks and boulders. One of these was deposited, when the ice melted, on what is now farmland in Ovington.

During cultivation of this field some years ago this boulder was unearthed, it weighed several tons and during its travels had been worn quite smooth and was almost perfectly round.

The boulder we think, was granite, and there's not a lot of that in Ovington or Norfolk for that matter, the question is: where did this particular pebble originate?

[**Editor:** As usual with Rod, he requests ...]

Answers on a £10 note by Friday week please.



### Deadline for next issue: 22 September

Edit and Production: Timothy Birt (01953-889208)  
(Printed by us with an Ecosys printer) Stone House Farm, The Street,  
Ovington, Thetford, Norfolk. IP25 6RT

Proof reader: Christine Reilly (885848)

Please send contributions to either above or email:

[oracle@ovington.org.uk](mailto:oracle@ovington.org.uk)