

# The Ovington Oracle

November, 2017



If anyone would like a brief Christmas message printed in the December issue, please send it before 20 November (contact details on back page).

With 5th of November events imminent, please remember animals & pets: be considerate with smoke and noise, have fun, stay safe.

Remember, the clocks go back an hour Sunday, 29 October

## Diary Dates

*All at Village Hall unless otherwise indicated*

Mondays, 10:30am	Coffee morning, until 11:30am
Mondays, 1:30pm	Bowls
2 Nov, 7:30pm	Parish Council
5 Nov, 9:30am	Holy Communion (church at Village Hall)
12 Nov, 10:30am	Remembrance Service (church at Village Hall)
19 Nov, 10:30am	All Age Worship (church at Village Hall)
19 Nov, 3:00pm	Afternoon Tea with musical entertainment
21 Nov, 7:45pm	Ladies Group

To book the village hall contact Lyndia Lewis 882222

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## Obituary

Editor

### **Donald George Webster**

b. 13 September 1924,  
d. 3 October 2017, aged 93.

Ovington has recently said its final farewell to one of its oldest residents with the passing and funeral of Don Webster, late of Crown Crescent. Don was a well known and popular figure in the Village, his ebullient greetings to all and sundry as he cycled through the Village will be long remembered. The display of Dahlias in his front garden were something to behold and added a splash of vibrant colour to the area.



Donald was preceded in death by his wife Joan, sisters: Irene and Ethel, brothers: Teddy, Dougie and Jack. He is survived by Doreen Thorpe, his children: Carol Grossman and David and he leaves five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Donald served in WWII, landing at Normandy on D-day+3 and was wounded. He convalesced at home in England before being assigned to North Africa. He was assigned tours in Germany, North Africa and Malaysia.

Donald's army career spanned more than 20 years, earning and being awarded many medals including the Pingat Jasa of Malaysia and most recently the Legion D'Honneur from France.

The funeral was held at St. Peter and Paul Church, Carbrooke followed by burial in Ovington churchyard. In his memory please make donations to the Royal Norfolk Regiment or a cancer charity of your choice.

A gentleman who will be sadly missed.

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## Ladies Group

*Ann Johnson*



On Tuesday, 17 October sixteen members attended the AGM. This year the Ladies Group has had a very interesting and varied programme. Three members have completed their three years, namely Rose, Grace and Jayne, and all the committee were thanked for their hard work. A big thank you to Rosemary and

Angela for volunteering to join the remaining committee. There is still a vacancy for one more person to join the committee for a full complement of six. After the business side was completed we had a few hilarious games of bingo.

The competition was won by Rosemary with her beautiful silk flowers.

Next month, on Tuesday, 21 November, we look forward to a talk by Lynn Scarrott from the British Legion on the Origin of the Remembrance Poppy. This should be a very interesting talk and very apt so soon after Remembrance Sunday. The competition colour will be **multicoloured**.

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## Parish Council (PC)

*Timothy Birt*

### **Highways meeting**

Councillors met our new Norfolk County Council Highways Engineer on 17 October. We undertook a walk between Fernside on the A1075 down Church Road, The Street, over the cross roads on onto Saham Road. A few items have been addressed, but there is a rather long list of 'issues' still pending. As we all know money is tight but Councillors are trying to get the best result for Ovington.

### **Next meeting.**

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

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

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## St John's Church

*Ann Johnson*



Sunday, 5 Nov    Holy Communion  
9:30am    in Village Hall

Sunday, 12 Nov    Remembrance Service  
10:30am    in Village Hall

Sunday, 19 Nov    All Age Worship  
10:30am    in Village Hall

We had a lovely Pet Service and welcomed back our faithful friends, Rosie and Megan, who were very well behaved and were rewarded with some doggie treats during the service. We always hold our Pet Service close to 4 October which is the feast day of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.

All our services in November will continue to be in the committee room of the village hall. The extensive work has gone very well in the church but, unfortunately, we now have a slight delay with the construction of the kitchenette. However, we do hope that we will be back in the church in good time for our traditional Carol Service on December 17, when we hope the church will be full to celebrate our return.

The Schools Project continues to go from strength to strength with the last four schools attending in November.

### Advance Notice:

The church is holding a quiz in the village hall on Saturday 3 February, 2018. Further details to follow. Contact Christine on 01953 885848 for more information.

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## Rainfall

*Rod*



Rainfall for last month, September was 72mm or 2.83"  
For October, just before publication, the total so far is  
21.5mm or 0.84"

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## Our Community – Our Church

John Hardy and Chris Springford

### Working towards completion

The weather has been kind to the progress of external restoration of St John the Evangelist Church. The tower is completed, the drains and soakaways are near completion which should rectify many of the historic problems with the Church. Covered scaffolding is allowing important roof work to now take place. Internally, the church is already beginning to look much improved, back to its former glory, with its lime washed walls the church is now a much brighter place. It is hoped, if funds will allow, to have the whole church painted internally. Unfortunately the church will not be completed by 3 November as originally planned as the company making the internal fittings have ceased trading. New craftsmen have been appointed, but we are assured it will be ready for the December Christmas Carol service.

The school project is now into its last term and everybody keeps pinching themselves about how successful it has been. It has been outstanding how a small community like Ovington and immediate surrounds have voluntarily administered a school curriculum that seven local schools and over 700 children have participated. Sorry helpers, it does not end there! All the schools who have participated are giving us a few children from each group in order to put on public performances. You will now become Thespians and will again be able to show how much these children have got out of their visits to Ovington in public performances next February.

We need to start thinking of the *Time Capsule*, ideas and contributions will be sought, watch this space for more information.

Initially it was hoped that villagers could be involved in the restoration of the Church Reredos, but this proved too difficult. However, I have heard various villagers' suggestions that something could be made for the church that will mark this point in its history. I will happily collate, and facilitate interested parties to meet and help them put together a project where materials and needle craft skills can be used to depict this point in the church's history.



Supported by

**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



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## Village Hall

Christine Reilly

### Afternoon Tea at Ovington

On Sunday 19 November we will be having Afternoon Tea in the village hall. Tickets are available from the village hall any Monday morning or from Christine on 01953 885848. Priced at £6, they include a full tea of sandwiches, cakes and pastries and *musical entertainment*! If you enjoyed the singing at our summer BBQ, then you will not be disappointed. As space is limited, please get your tickets in advance. (It also helps us with the catering!) Proceeds go to village hall funds. We will be holding a raffle for '*Children in Need*' during the afternoon.

Thank you to everyone who came to lunch on 7 October and tucked into the sausages and casseroles. A grand total of £89.70 was raised for village hall funds. We hope to run similar lunches in the future.

### Christmas Bazaar

The Bazaar will be on Saturday 9 December between 12 and 2.30pm. Lunch will be provided in the form of home-made soups or filled rolls, plus copious amounts of tea and cake. As well as the main raffle and tombola, there will be craft and gift stalls, and raffles for a hamper and a Christmas cake. Donations for prizes will be very welcome, so when you go shopping, please remember to add in an item or two for the tombola or hamper which will be gratefully received by any committee member. Please make sure that everything donated will still be in date by the Bazaar as we are unable to use out-of-date items. Suitable (small) gifts are needed for the Lucky Dip, which will be in the form of 'Ladies' or 'Gentlemen's' gifts. At the risk of repeating myself, there will be NO books or bric-a-brac as it takes up too much space in the hall and at that time of year it is just too cold to put any stalls outside!

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## Village Lottery

Adrian Malton



Lottery winners for October:

1st prize (£10)	Chris Lewis;
2nd prize (£5)	Ethan Tomkins

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## Welcome and good wishes

Village

\*North Ovington would like to wish Dianne good luck as she starts her new adventures in another village next month. It has been a pleasure to know her and we wish her joy and happiness.

Also, we would like to say welcome to Ron who has moved into the Piggery at the north end of Ovington and to Victoria who is moving in to Dianne's cottage.

\*Central Ovington adds a warm welcome to Mark and Donna recently moved into The Street and also Claire, Jason and Jimmy who have recently joined us in Carbrooke Road.

A warm welcome to you all and we look forward to meeting and greeting you at some of our social events & very friendly gatherings.

\*We all get on very well and there are plans for a path to join both areas.

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## Village Burglary

Tim

Police have distributed a letter to houses at the east end of The Street following a burglary in the area. The police suggest that repeat crimes can follow in the same area.

Please be vigilant and take care.

If you notice suspicious activity phone it in on 101 or if a crime is taking place 999. If you simply notice people or vehicles acting unusually, probably the best general defence is to make it clear that they have been spotted.



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## MacMillan Coffee mornings

Jane Lambert

I would like to say a big thank you to you all in helping me raise £233 for MacMillan Nurses.

A big thank you also goes out for the tombola prizes, making the cakes and helping me on the day making the coffee morning so successful.

Monday's usual Village Hall Coffee Morning also for MacMillan Nurses raised £55, making a grand total of £288 to send.

Many thanks.

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## What's on nearby

Fiona Roat



### Wayland Wood

A talk by Steve Collin, Senior Reserves Officer, on the history, flora and fauna and current projects associated with this ancient coppiced woodland.

Venue: Watton Christian Community Centre, High Street, Watton, IP25 6AB

Time: Wednesday 8 November, 7:30–9:30pm

Cost: £2 NWT members, £3 non-members, including refreshments

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Susan Hollingworth

### Exhibition: "**Super – Smashing – Grout!**"

A cracking good exhibition by  
The Smithereens.

4th November – 18th November



Formed by Becka Elliott, who teaches art and mosaic making whilst also creating her own works, The Smithereens are a group of mosaic makers who meet monthly(ish) at Framin' Art in Downham Market.

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**– 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

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## What's on elsewhere

Bar Pritchard

### Swaffham Jazz

Tuesday 14 November at 7:30pm, £6 on the door.

#### Swing That Thing - six -piece Jazz Band

Swaffham Conservative Social Club, 23 London Rd  
PE37 7DD

Details from Norman 01760 722384 / Geoff: 01366 328730



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Mark Webster

### Marvellous mosses!

Friday 10 November, 11:15am led by expert botanist and bryophyte enthusiast Robin Stevenson, we will explore Norfolk's largest ancient woodland and take a closer look at these fascinating – if often overlooked – primitive plants.

Venue: Foxley Wood nature reserve (First car park from public entrance), Themelthorpe Road, Foxley, NR20 4QR (TG 049 229)

Activities are free, no need to book.

More details at: [www.tcv.org.uk/norfolk](http://www.tcv.org.uk/norfolk)



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Tim Cara

Friends of  
Dereham  
Memorial  
Hall



Film Night (meeting room -max 46 people):

#### 'Hidden Figures' (PG) 127 mins

Tuesday 28 November, doors open 7.00pm

Unsung black female scientists' role in the development of space age technology in hostile gender/race environment.

Oscar nominated. Taraji P Henson, Janelee Monae, Kevin Costner

Tickets £6 each (remember the free parking, bar, ices and popcorn), available at: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/fodmh](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/fodmh)

Details of all events at: [www.derehammemorialhall.co.uk](http://www.derehammemorialhall.co.uk)

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## And finally ...

Rod



- If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.
- Torch: A case for holding dead batteries.
- God gave you toes as a device for finding furniture in the dark.

### Did you know ...

In the 17th & 18th centuries the people of the Parish were responsible for maintaining the main highway or turnpike road (now the A1075) where it passed through the parish. This was essential work to ensure the safe and speedy progress of the early mail and stage coaches on their journeys to the Capital and other important destinations.



Woe betide the unfortunate villagers if a coach should turn over, become bogged down or be snowed in. To facilitate the upkeep of this highway a pit was dug just north of the Watton brook and the materials from therein, stones, clay, gravel and hardcore etc were spread on the road surfaces damaged by the traffic or heavy rain. The pit was open to all so it is sure that all other tracks in the Village were also similarly maintained. The pit has since been filled in with municipal and domestic rubbish, but is still owned by the Parish Council.

**Deadline for next issue: 20 November**

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