

The Ovington Oracle

December, 2017



Get ready ... it's nearly time
for the famous

Ovington Christmas Bazaar!

Saturday 9 December
12:00 'til 2:30pm

There will be lunch:

Home-made soups, plus filled rolls, cakes,
mince pies and probably many more treats
to tempt you.

The craft stalls will be crammed with
seasonal decorations and beautifully crafted
gifts.

'The' hamper, Tombola, Lucky dip, Raffle
and more ...



Diary Dates

All at Village Hall unless otherwise indicated

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Mondays, 10:30am | Coffee morning, until 11:30am |
| Mondays, 1:30pm | Bowls |
| 3 Dec, 9:30am | Holy Communion (at Village Hall) |
| 9 Dec, noon | BAZAAR |
| 17 Dec, 6:00pm | Carol Service – St John's Church |
| 25 Dec, 10:30am | Christmas Service – St John's Church |
| 31 Dec, 10:30am | Group Service – St John's Church |
| 19 Dec, 6:45pm | (for 7:00pm) – Ladies Group Christmas Social |

To book the village hall contact Lyndia Lewis 882222

Village web-site: www.ovington-village.org.uk

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Church Road closure

Norfolk County Council

NEWS FLASH – Between 12 and 14 December Church Road will be closed while the water main is connected to the Church.

Community Speedwatch

Timothy Birt

The Parish Council is trying to resurrect our community speed-watch scheme. Ovington is affiliated with Shipdham and has access to the necessary kit and training. We have a couple of members ready to go but are looking for further volunteers.

Interested? Please contact any member of the Parish Council:

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Karen Weir (Chair) | 17 The Street | 07735 205990 |
| Tim Birt (Vice-chair) | Stone House Fm, The Street | 01953 889208 |
| Rod Rumsby | 31 The Street | 01953 882246 |
| Janet Armstrong | Owl Cottage, Water End | |
| Jeremy Woods | The Old Crown, The Street | 01953 883953 |

Ladies Group

Ann Johnson



On Tuesday 21 November, we listened to a very interesting talk by Lynn Scarrott who is County Secretary of the British Legion in Norfolk. Lynn talked about the origins of the Poppy and of her maternal grandfather who served in WW1, her uncles who served in WWII and of her own life in the services after joining the Royal Air Force in 1978. She talked about her many postings both in this country and abroad during her 30 years' service. In 1921 the first Poppy Day was held in this country and it raised £106,000. After this a £2,000 grant was allocated to disabled servicemen to start making the poppies for the next year. By 2016 the amount raised from the poppies had grown to a staggering £104,000,000 and this amount helped a large number of beneficiaries to live a better life.

The competition was won by Angela with her multicoloured Russian doll.

Next month we will be holding our Christmas Social. The doors will open at 6:45pm for members to arrive ready for a hot meal at 7:00pm.

We know there have been a few new ladies move into our village and you all would be very welcome to come along to our Ladies Group Meetings. We usually meet at 7:45pm on the third Tuesday in the month in the Village Hall. We sometimes have speakers and sometimes social evenings and sometimes a visit or a meal out. If anyone would like to come along then you may like to contact one of our committee members, who would be very happy to bring you along to any of the meetings. The committee members are:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Angela | 30 The Street |
| Ann | 47 The Street |
| Christine | 6 Church Road |
| Linda | Stone House Farm (west end The Street) |
| Rosemary | 35 The Street |

Parish Council (PC)

Heidi Frary (Clerk) / Timothy Birt

Report based on unconfirmed minutes and notes:

Allotment access

The Allotment Association asked the PC to consider ways to improve the surface of the sloped track access. A number of possibilities were considered including asking the builders renovating the Church for any suggestions. The fence posts to be inspected and replaced where necessary around the periphery of the allotments.

Trod

Funding was confirmed and the final draft of the Parish Partnership bid for a single dressed surface 'trod' at the northern end of the village was approved.

Finance

Our Clerk is currently working on a short term part time contract for Lyng PC (covering maternity leave). During this time payments are slightly more complex, however there is a small nett surplus for Ovington.

The Clerk distributed a precept update, payments were approved and cheques signed.

Policy Review

As part of on-going governance requirements, the following policy documents were reviewed and validated: "Sickness absence policy", "Tree management policy" and "Filming at council meetings policy".

Public Participation

District Councillors informed those present about changes to policing – PCSOs are being made redundant and replaced by Police Officers and Sergeants. Community engagement will be handled by Amy Lucas, although she will have to cover all 112 parishes.

£181k of central government funds has been accepted by Breckland Council for community housing initiatives.

Next meeting.

4 January, 2018 at 7:30pm at the Village Hall committee room.

Legal documents at: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

St John's Church

Ann Johnson



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

Sunday, 17 Dec Carol Service at
6:00pm St John's Church

Monday, 25 Dec Christmas Service at
10:30am St John's Church

Sunday, 31 Dec
10:30am Group Service*

* Only if we are back worshipping in St John's Church.

We do hope that we will be back in the church in good time for our traditional Carol Service on 17 December, when we hope the church will be full to celebrate our return. Mulled wine and seasonal refreshments will be served after the service. Prior to this the church will need a grand clean but this will have to be organised by word of mouth.

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.

Rainfall

Rod



I have faithfully watched every single raindrop falling and have accounted for their arrival in my selection of measuring vessels.

Thus we have a final total for October of 23mm or 0.9"

So far for November we have 27mm or 1.06".

There has been no snow but there should be a foot or two in the new year, watch this space.

Our Community – Our Church

John Hardy and Chris Springford

Completion days away

There was some disappointment at reaching the end of this amazing project, but proud satisfaction was voiced by all the volunteer helpers who had made the past twelve months St John Ovington HLF School Project so successful. There is still further work to do during January for the large public concert at Wayland Academy on Saturday 3 February 2018. Make sure you manage to get tickets* this will be a wonderful acknowledgement of the project, and also the great work the pupils and volunteers have done in the past year.

Watch out for the book. During the past three terms all the school pupils have been contributing to their book which will be a major part of the celebration of the restoration of our church. Keen competition has produced some stunning characters, with "*Clay the Clumsy*" the ultimate winner having creative adventures around our church.

The church nears completion, a slight delay in the water connection which should have happened near the end of November. The new fittings and new sound system should be in place early December ready for the Carol Service on Sunday 17 December.

Date for your diary:

Sunday 29 April 2018 – The community will be invited to the rededication of the church by the Bishop. At the same time it is hoped to put on an exhibition of the project, a lunch, placing of the time capsule and a mini concert. Watch this space ...

* full details next month.



Supported by

The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Village Hall

Christine Reilly

Thank you to everyone who supported our collection for *Children In Need* this year, either from the Friday collection at the HLF project (£11.54) or at the Afternoon Tea raffle (£55.06) or the Monday Coffee Morning (£22.50) – grand total £89.10.

The Afternoon Tea on 19 November was well attended and everyone enjoyed copious amounts of tea and cake while being serenaded by Ian and Rachel. The musical entertainment was so good, some folk were even inspired to 'bust some moves' – perhaps to work off some of the calorific intake. Our next event is:

The Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 9 December between 12:00 and 2:30pm.

We will be setting up the hall the day before and stall holders can begin filling and decorating their stalls from 3:00pm. Donations of items for the hamper, tombola, lucky dip and raffle would be appreciated before the 8 December (bring to the hall any Monday morning or pass to a committee member). Ann Johnson is organising the raffle and Linda Birt is in charge of the tombola. Preserves and cakes can be brought along late on the Friday afternoon when we are setting up, or from 9:00am on the day. Please note cakes must be wrapped and preferably labelled with ingredients (particularly with regard to nuts, etc.). Home-made soups will be on sale for lunch, plus filled rolls, cakes, mince pies and probably many more treats to tempt you. The craft stalls will be crammed with seasonal decorations and beautifully crafted gifts. Offers of help on the day will be gratefully received, even if you can only manage an hour or so. Proceeds are split between the village hall and the church, making this our one big village fund raising event for the year!

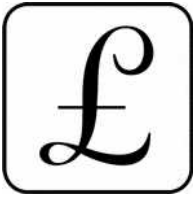
Date for your new diary:

Saturday 27 January – a show in the village hall where you pay what you feel is the right amount at the end of the evening!

More details next month but tickets can be reserved by ringing 01953 885848.

Village Lottery

Adrian Malton



Lottery winners for November:

1st prize (£10) Simon Hardy;

2nd prize (£5) Alan Burkin

The December draw will be at the Bazaar on 9 December with **six prizes** on offer, ranging from £6 to £30!

Adrian will be collecting membership fees for next year's Village Hall Lottery at the Bazaar, but anyone can join before then by filling in the form enclosed with this Oracle and giving it, with the necessary £12, to any committee member.

Good luck with next year's draws and thank you for supporting the village hall.

Welcome!

Village

A warm welcome to new members to our village Steve & Sue at Water End Farm and Dave & Gill in Church Road.

Some of us have already met, we hope you will enjoy some of our social events and the village's very friendly gatherings.

Team Caveman

Bob Cave

[Editor: This good news just missed last month's Oracle deadline]

Bob Cave and Team Caveman completed the Royal Marine 10k Commando Challenge on Saturday, 14 October.

Many thanks to everyone who sponsored me and helped me to raise over £500.

Shipdham Surgery

Carole Playford

The clinicians request your help to assist them, particularly if the consultation is likely to involve an examination.

Please wear appropriate clothing, loose fitting, easily removed clothing, shoes that slip on; please avoid things like tight sleeves (for blood taking and blood pressure etc), multiple intricate layers or laced shoes. This will help reduce vital minutes that are lost in the consultation time. Help the doctor help you!

Throughout August, September and October there were 221 missed appointments, which amounted to 2,796 minutes lost. If you cannot keep your appointment, PLEASE let the Surgery know as soon as possible, someone else will be glad of the appointment.

Please continue to use the suggestion box in the Surgery for constructive comments – they are always considered at the quarterly Patient Participation Group (PPG) meeting.

Recent questions/queries and some explanations/actions:

- Appointment times for blood tests are arranged to fit in with the collection service from the hospital, some blood tests can be taken in the afternoon, but not late appointments as the blood samples have to go through a process in order for them to be kept overnight, but this cannot happen on a Friday as the specimens will not last until the following Monday.
- Children's' toys and books – unfortunately, strict hygiene rules apply, parents are welcome to bring books and toys to entertain their children whilst waiting.
- Radio volume is set to help confidentiality at the reception desk.
- Check in screen is cleaned on a regular basis.
- Refreshment machine, is difficult because of space limits and safety implications of hot drinks.
- Parking please be considerate as spaces are limited, there is always short term parking on the village green.
- Name badges will be provided for staff.
- The access clinic is for same day urgent problems. While a time slot is given, waiting times can vary. This is a sit and wait clinic.

What's on nearby

Fiona Roat



NWT Breckland Local Group

We had a very good turnout last month for our talk on Wayland Wood. This is such a gem and it was very interesting to hear about its development and management. So sad that it is also abused. NWT are of course trying to work out ways to keep it open to all but protect it too.

This month we have a talk by Carole and Rae Herries about

The Ups and Downs of Photography in Equador and the Galapagos

We are also staging a 'for fun' Photo Competition. It's £1 per photo, bring your photo(s) of Norfolk Wildlife taken this year and labelled with your name and where taken please. There will be a winner and runner-up prize.

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

Time: Wednesday 13 December, 7:30pm

Cost: £3 each (£2 members), including seasonal refreshments

Watton Town Council

Watton Festive Christmas Market

Sunday 3 December in Watton High Street 1:00 – 4:00pm

- Bands
- Festive Rides
- Festive Stalls
- Santa's Grotto
- Carol Singing
- Alex the Clown
- Concert at the Methodist Church



Town Lights switch on at 4:00pm

What's on elsewhere

Bar Pritchard

Swaffham Jazz

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

Colin Mason Quartet
with Eleanora, vocals/keyboard
and Tap Robinson, guitar.



Swaffham Conservative Social Club, 23 London Rd PE37 7DD

Details from Norman 01760 722384 / Geoff: 01366 328730

Dereham Carnival HQ

Dereham Christmas Lights and Market

Sunday 3 December 12:00 – 5:00+pm



The Christmas Market in the Market Place will be in the region of 50 stalls selling products ranging from deluxe chocolates to handmade ornaments.

Along with gifts there will also be an array of food vendors with a large selection of foods that will warm you up on the winter's day.

The Grotto (£3.50) from 11:00am

Meet The Reindeer (no charge) from 12:00pm

The Music Podium from 12:30pm and throughout the day we will have performers joining us to keep you entertained.

Lantern Parade taking place at 4:30pm before the countdown to The Switch On begins. Children can make lanterns at the workshop in Nelson Place from 11:00am

Countdown for the Lights Switch On at 5:00pm

More information at: www.derehamchristmas.co.uk

Police Connect

Chris Lewis

For weekly updates of local crime, warnings and other policing issues register (bottom of web-page) for email alerts at:

www.norfolk.police.uk/services/police-connect

And finally ...

Rod



Bill & Bert were discussing their respective ages.

Bill says to Bert: "If I were your age I would be three times as old as I am"

Bert replies "Yes, and if I were as old as you are I'd have to wait 15 years to be half as old as I am now.

How old are the two men?

Answer next month

- Before you borrow money from a friend, decide which you need more.
- If I knew I was going to live this long I would have taken better care of myself.

Did you know ...

From the 1950's onwards, Crossroads Farm housed a large dairy herd and four times a day the farmer, Mr Donny Mathews, used to drive his herd of cows through the Ovington bends to and from their pasture meadows adjacent to where Mr Duffield now lives. One wonders what effect this would have on present day traffic conditions.



Deadline for next issue: 21 December

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