

The Ovington Oracle

February, 2019

The days are lengthening – hurrah. Due to a quirk of the Earth's eccentric orbit, we may not notice much change in the morning yet, but there is definitely a longer afternoon.

That's the science but there is also much folklore about February especially about weather:

- If Candlemas day be fair and bright,
winter will have another flight,
If Candlemas day be dark with cloud and rain,
winter gone and will not come again.

(Candlemas day: 2 February)

- If February give much snow,
a fine summer it doth foreshow.
- When gnats dance in February the husbandman becomes a beggar.

(Husbandman: free tenant farmer or small landowner)

The folklore consensus seems to be, hope for a rough February!

Diary Dates

At Village Hall unless indicated

Mondays, 10:30am	Coffee morning, until 11:30am
Mondays, 1:30pm	Bowls
3 Feb, 3:00pm	Afternoon Tea
3 Feb, 9:30am	Holy Communion (Church)
17 Feb, 10:30am	All Age Worship (Church)
19 Feb, 7:45pm	Ladies Group
23 Feb, 7:30pm	Show: <i>The Importance of being Earnest</i>
1 Mar, 7:30pm	Ladies buffet evening (30 The Street)

To book the village hall contact Christine Reilly 885848

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

Contents

Diary Dates.....	1
Ladies Group.....	3
Messages.....	4
Parish Council (PC).....	5
Village Hall.....	6
Carpet Bowls Club.....	7
Litter Pick.....	7
Rainfall.....	8
St John's Church.....	8
World Day of Pray.....	9
What's on nearby:.....	10
What's on elsewhere.....	11
And finally	12

Back copies of the Oracle since 2012 are available at:
www.ovington.org.uk/oracle

Ladies Group

Angela



It was nice to see 16 ladies at our first meeting of 2019 on 15 January. This included Jude a new member. Jude and her husband moved into the village a few months ago. Our speaker this month was Hazel Gillingham. Her talk was entitled 'Millicent Garrett Fawcett – The Quiet Suffragette'.

It was very interesting and made me realise how lucky we ladies are now that people like her fought for our cause. Millicent was born in Aldeburgh on 11 June 1847 and was the leader of the movement for Women's Suffrage in England for 50 years. From the beginning of her career she had to struggle against male opposition to political rights for women. From 1905 she also had to overcome public hostility to the militant suffragists led by Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughter Christabel, with whose violent methods Millicent was not in sympathy. Millicent was also one of the founders of Newnham College, Cambridge, one of the first English colleges for women. She was married to Henry Fawcett, who was blind. She helped him a lot to overcome the handicap of his blindness. In 1918 women did get the vote, but it wasn't until 1928 that all women in England were given the vote. Millicent died in 1929 ... she must have been happy to see women given the vote before she died.

The competition which was something beginning with "A" was won by Gill Welsted (an autograph) and Margaret Allen (a toy aeroplane)

Our meeting next month on Tuesday 19 February at 7:45pm is entitled 'Fact Finding', when Margaret Cranmer will be telling us all that Watton Library offers. Also Brian Chatten will give a talk called 'Friends Against Scams' The competition will be something beginning with "**B**".

The Ladies Group are having a Buffet evening on Friday 1 March at Angela's – 30 The Street. It begins at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome ... husbands, friends and family. This will be a fund raiser for our group so come along and support this village group. It's always a fun evening with lots of delicious food and a glass of wine (or soft drink) to help it down.

Messages

Jane Lambert

Forthcoming Event:

I am holding a coffee morning in aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance and would appreciate any unwanted gifts or donations for a tombola stall.

More details of the event will appear in the Oracle at a later date.

Many thanks, Jane Lambert (25 The Street)

Bruce Smith

Thank you:

In the October issue of the Oracle, we were greeted to the village, having moved in, in mid-September. Both Jude and I (Bruce) would like to thank everybody who has made us feel so welcome since then. It has been a real pleasure meeting and getting to know everybody, and look forward to meeting those who we have yet to meet. We really love the village and enjoy the events, and gatherings that go on within it, and look forward to those yet to come. We really love the good sense of community here.

So thank you all again, Bruce & Jude

Linda Birt

Look out and be seen:

Following a recent near miss incident it is worth reminding ourselves that the village roads are a shared resource, please be mindful of other users.

Pedestrians, please help by wearing clothing which stands out from the background, especially during the dark winter mornings and evenings.

Motorists, please look out for pedestrians and drive slowly where our roads are in shared use, which extends well beyond the village 30mph zone.

Parish Council (PC)

Heidi Frary / Timothy Birt

This report is generated from notes and the unconfirmed minutes of the 3 Jan meeting.

Matters Arising

The tree guards and labels have been purchased and installed to protect the memorial trees planted in Crown Crescent. A full tree survey will be completed in the next few weeks [now done].

TB responded to the NCC budget consultation as an individual and advertised the consultation in last months Oracle. He reported that the on-line system seemed rather contrived with limited options. There were far more questions gathering personal data than actually consulting.

As reported in the January Oracle, Highways have indicated that the Trod will not be installed until after April as the programme is full, however it should be one of the first schemes completed after this date. Councillors are very unhappy but felt there were few options other than to keep up the pressure via social media.

Finance

Councillors reviewed accounts, the precept position and signed cheques. Individual details of receipts and expenses are reported in the official minutes (see link below).

The PC may make small grant payments to organisations which benefit the village. This year East Anglian Air Ambulance, Wayland First Responders (as featured in the October Oracle) and Citizens Advice Mid-Norfolk were each granted £100.

Council Tax Precept

After consideration over two meeting Councillors agreed that the Parish component of our Council tax should rise by 4% to £49.88 for a band D property.

Next meeting

7 March 2019 at 7:30pm at the Village Hall committee room.

Legal documents at: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Village Hall

Sue Horton

Ovington's New Year's Eve social was definitely a night to remember and an occasion to be repeated. Everyone brought along food and nibbles for sharing and whatever they fancied to drink. There were lots of laughs with numerous party games and Karaoke. Nobody was prepared for Ovington's own 'Village People' singing YMCA (didn't recognise them in their costumes!) and a couple of 'Dancing Queens'. A guest appearance from 'Steve Sinatra' singing 'My Way' and a fabulous rendition of Queen's Galileo and much more. Something for everyone, to sing along to or have a bop. The evening finished with a bang, with many thanks to Mark and Wendy who supplied fireworks.

Future Events

Sunday 3 February 3:00pm – **Afternoon tea**

Back following popular demand. Who can resist a relaxing afternoon tea, with musical entertainment provided by the lovely Rachel and Ian.

Tickets £6 per person – includes a range of sandwiches, home-made cakes and tea/coffee. If you've got visitors, bring them along. Tickets available at the village hall Monday mornings between 10:30 and 11:30 or by ringing Christine on 01953 885848.

Saturday 23 February 7:30pm – **Oscar Wilde's**

The Importance of being Earnest

Brought to us by *The Two Gentlemen Theatre Company* and sponsored by Creative Arts East. Performed by only two actors, this is their version of Earnest, not just the original Oscar Wilde version. Tickets are on a 'first come, first served' basis to 'Pay what you decide' after you have seen the show. You will be given an envelope on arrival and it's up to you how much you put in at the end of the show, depending on how you rate the performance. *Creative Arts East* only offer their best shows for this type of ticket as they are fairly confident of success. The village pays the performers in full and *Creative Arts East* guarantee us against loss. As most acts cost in the region of £650, we would need to cram 65 people into the hall if they paid £10 a head just to cover basic cost. So you can see why we only do a limited number of shows each year, to take advantage of the subsidy.

Please book your tickets from Christine (as above). And if you find you're unable to use them nearer the time, please let Christine know, in case we have a waiting list.

Diary Dates

Saturday 23 March	Soup Lunch
Saturday 4 May	Quiz
Saturday 22 June	Mid-Summer Fest BBQ

Village Hall AGM – Thursday 28 February at 7:30pm

In the village hall – Everyone welcome. Come along, find out what's happening and lend your support to keep this vital village amenity going. And if you'd like to join the committee, even better!

Carpet Bowls Club

Grace Rumsby

The Ovington Carpet bowls club are looking for new members to enjoy some really good fun.

Sadly, Anno Domini is taking its toll on some of our long term members and we would like to invite anyone interested to pop along to the Village Hall at 1:30pm on most Mondays. The game is not particularly competitive, in fact the whole afternoon is more of a social gathering of like minded folk, there are always refreshment available at half time.

The first visit is free and there will be instructions on how to play the game if you have never played before. We are a friendly group who do not take life or the game too seriously.

Look forward to seeing you.

Litter Pick

Timothy Birt



After some jiggling around we have a date for this year's village litter pick; keep your diary clear for the morning of:

Saturday 6 April

Someone said, of the later date: "At least we should be guaranteed of no snow!", a very risky prediction indeed.

Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



December rainfall total was 54.5mm or 2.14".

The total for 2018 was 555mm or 21.9", this is a bit down on 2017 when the figure was 777mm or 30.6"

The rainfall this month is at the moment (19 Jan), sparse, only 6mm or quarter of an inch.

St John's Church

Ann Johnson



Sunday, 3 Feb

9:30am Holy Communion

Tuesday, 5 Feb

1:00pm Church cleaning

Sunday, 17 Feb

10:30am All Age Worship

A pair of Ladies Black Leather gloves were found in the church after the Carol Service. These have been placed on the table just inside the church for collection. The church is open daily from 9:00am – 4:00pm.

Church cleaning has been changed to 1:00pm on the first Tuesday of the month.

At the All Age Worship Service on Sunday, 17 March, we are hoping to support the Leprosy Mission, particularly focusing on the Anandaban Hospital in Nepal. More details will follow next month.

This year we will be preparing a new Electoral Roll. All those who were previously on the Electoral Roll need to complete a new form and, if anyone else would like to join the Electoral Roll, forms will be available in the church during February and March.

World Day of Prayer

Margaret Cator



Everything is ready and the invitation is for everyone – men, women and children of all ages to join this Day of Prayer.*



Women of Slovenia, one of the smallest and youngest countries in Europe, have prepared this year's service and they encourage us to reflect on the barriers they have faced since the end of the Second World War when their country was a part of Yugoslavia, a Marxist socialist republic. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans.

The local Service in the Wayland area is at:

2:00pm Friday, 1 March at St Mary's Church, Watton.

Please contact Margaret Cator 01953 882187 if you would like further information.

* The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world – through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

What's on nearby:

Fiona Roat



New Year kicked off with a suitably snowy talk from Andrew Clarke on the Wildlife of Antarctica.

We were heartened by an excellent turnout of faces old and new and everyone seemed impressed by Andy's excellent talk. Thank you all for coming.

On Wednesday 13 February at 7:30pm, we welcome back Jonathan Preston, NWT Breckland Reserves Manager, to update us on the last year of work carried out on the sites and to inform us of future projects in our local area.

This will be preceded by the Local Group AGM to which all NWT members are welcome. This will likely be quite short and the talk will be of the usual length.

Watton Christian Community Centre, High Street, Watton. IP25 6AB
£2 members, £3 non-members, cost includes refreshments.

www.queenshallwatton.co.uk

Queen's Hall events

- Country & Western Dance – Saturday 16 Feb
Details: Mike Rix on 01953 889890
- Bingo, most Monday evenings starting 8:00pm.
Details: Janet Lundie on 01953 883529
- Antiques & Collectables Fair – Sunday 17 Feb
9:00am – 3:30pm, admission Free



Queens Hall, Watton. IP25 6DA

What's on elsewhere

A selection of events across Breckland:

Bar Pritchard

Swaffham Jazz

*The Colin Mason Quartet with
Ryan McCaffrey on Saxophone.*

£8 – Tuesday 12 Feb 7:30pm

Swaffham Conservative Social Club, 23 London Rd PE37 7DD
Details from Norman 01760 722384 / Geoff: 01366 328730



FoDMH

Thurs 28 February, 10:00am

Coffee Plus!

Shopping in Dereham? Take a break and enjoy a coffee and some live music, courtesy of Diana and Paul – vocals and guitar. Free, just buy a coffee.



Mon 18 February, 2:30pm

Disgusting Songs for Revolting Children

The multi-award winning musical comedian Jay Foreman presents charmingly sickable songs, stories, poems and a whole lot more for the whole family, from small children (6 years upwards £5) to massive children (grown ups £10).

www.derehammemorialhall.co.uk

And finally ...

Rod+Tim



- A man goes to his doctors and says:
“Every time I look in the mirror I see myself as old and haggard”
“Well” said the doctor “There’s no need for me to check your eyesight then”
- Q: How can you tell if a motor cyclist is happy?
A: Look for the flies on his teeth.
- Q: What vegetable is forbidden on ships?
A: Leeks!
- Q: What did the tree say after a long winter?
A: That’s a re-leaf.
- Q: What do you call 27 penguins in the Arctic?
A: Lost! Very lost.

(Penguins live in Antarctica.)

Deadline for next issue: 20 February

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