

The Ovington Oracle

May, 2019

It's election time on 2 May. Traditionally turnout is low when it is only a local election but let's buck the trend and exercise our democratic right.

If you don't like any candidates, say so! Unlike some countries we don't have a "none of the above" box, but you can still write it on the ballot paper and that preference is officially recorded as a 'spoilt ballot', a powerful democratic choice.

A reminder of the old saying (just in case):

Ne'er cast a clout till May be out

Diary Dates

At Village Hall unless indicated

Mondays, 10:30am	Coffee morning, until 11:30am
Mondays, 1:30pm	Bowls
2 May 7:00am	Local Election
4 May, 7:30pm	Quiz with Ploughman's Supper
5 May, 9:30am	Holy Communion (Church)
9 May, 7:30pm	Annual Parish Meeting, followed by (9:00pm) Parish Council AGM
16 May, 7:45pm	Ladies Group
19 May, 10:30am	Pentecost Service (Church)
25 May, 10:00am	Coffee Morning in aid of Air Ambulance
26 May, 10:30am	Rogation Sunday Service (Church)

To book the village hall contact Christine Reilly 885848

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

Contents

Diary Dates.....	1
Village Litter Pick.....	2
Ladies Group.....	3
Rainfall.....	3
St John's HLF project report.....	4
Local Elections – 2 May.....	5
Village Hall.....	6
Annual Parish Meeting (APM).....	7
Parish Council (PC).....	7
Messages.....	7
St John's Church.....	8
Coffee Morning for Air Ambulance.....	8
Shipdham Surgery PPG.....	9
What's on nearby:.....	10
What's on elsewhere:.....	11
And finally	12

Village Litter Pick

Timothy Birt

An excellent turnout of intrepid litter pickers who collected a significant heap of rubbish ... including an amusing 'vintage' magazine collection!

Afterwards there was a fab spread at the village hall.

Pictures of the event at:

www.ovington.org.uk/litter



Ladies Group

Angela Wynne



On 16 April fifteen ladies attended our annual dinner at Necton Windmill. I had plenty of very positive comments that the ladies enjoyed their meal. There was plenty of laughter and chatting, which is something that we all love to do when we get together. We all look forward to this meal out and the staff at The Windmill gave us a great

evening.

Our meeting on Tuesday 16 May we see Carole Adam come and talk to us about Pets Therapy which we are all looking forward to. The competition is something beginning with 'D'. As usual the meeting begins at 7:45pm.

Please make a note that if you are still interested in visiting Gressenhall on 16 July we need 12 members of 65 or over to attend to get the special discount price of £11.00. Could you please bring the money to the May meeting. If you do not qualify for the discount price, I'm afraid you will have to pay £12.90. The committee will supply transport and we will be leaving Ovington at 1:30pm.

Angela will have a menu at the May meeting for the meal after the pub walk on 18 June. Members will be asked to make their choices of food. The walk is open for husbands and family so bring them all along. It's always a lovely evening and Richard at The Chequers Inn always gives us a great meal.

Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



The total for March was only 51.5mm or 2.02".

Whereas so far this month we have suffered major inundations of 'dry stuff' amounting to only 2.5mm of rain or next to nothing in old money.

This dry spell is getting serious so if anyone who knows the secrets of the rain dance I suggest they get dancing, or there will be no spuds for Rod this year.

St John's HLF project report

Chris Springford

We had planned that the last part of the HLF project should include the repair and limewashing of the lower walls in the church to use up the remainder of the HLF grant. The cost of this exercise was greater than expected and the PCC decided that the cleaning and restoration of the reredos should be done instead.

This required a new faculty from the diocese and the selection of a DAC-approved conservator to do the work. On removing the reredos from the wall, it was apparent that the damp had crumbled the wall and damaged part of the rear of the reredos. An extensive repair and cleaning operation to the reredos ensued and the repair of the internal wall behind the altar involved several coats of plaster and limewashing to provide a suitable surface for new battens to support the reredos. These battens provide a space for air to circulate between the reredos and the wall. A generous financial contribution to this work was made by the Trustees of the RC Snelling Trust.

The conservation work established that part of the reredos was medieval (at the time it formed part of a chancel screen in the church) and some of it was skilfully restored in the Victorian era.

Replacing three pews with individual seats and then moving the font to the other side of the entrance door has created a more flexible space at the back of the church for after-service hospitality and as a space to hold meetings.

The vestry furniture was renewed to create better storage space for essential service needs.

Broadband internet connection in the church is now in-place – as is a hearing loop and projection and sound systems integrated with the organ. The addition of microphones has also helped.

A new professional history of the church was commissioned and together with a detailed report about the reredos and the story of the HLF restoration is being formed into a new A5 size booklet.

There were insufficient funds available to do the planned up-righting of the gravestones in the churchyard. However, the PCC might be able to secure funds for this from the Norfolk Churches Trust. The church grounds and the adjacent field have been repaired to recover the churn left by the building works and vehicles and the grass re-seeded and mowed.

We are also grateful to the HLF, the Diocesan Board of Finance, the DAC, the Archdeacon's office, the Architects and Builders, the seven cluster schools and village volunteers, and the many people who gave so generously of their time and money to help the project along.

We'd like to think that this has helped to preserve a unique village asset for the good of all. And, one that truly engaged 'Our Village with Our Church'.

For more see: www.ovingtonchurch.co.uk

[Editor:

A full summary of all the work completed at St John's will appear in the next Oracle – it is a long list from a comprehensive and complicated project.]

Local Elections – 2 May

Editor

Ovington Parish Council

There will not be a ballot for the Parish Council as there were fewer nominations than places available. The following are elected to Ovington Parish Council:

Timothy Edward BIRT

Karen Jane WEIR

Jeremy Derek WOODS

In due course the Parish Council will be seeking to co-opt two additional members.

Breckland District Council

There is a choice for your District Councillors as there are two seats and three candidates. A vote will take place on **Thursday 2 May**. The polling station is at the Village Hall, open between 7:00am and 10:00pm.

You may vote for one or two of the following candidates:

BIRT, Timothy Edward (Green Party)

CRANE, Helen Susan (Conservative Party Candidate)

HEWETT, Theresa Ruth (Conservative Party Candidate)

Village Hall

Sue Horton

The Soup lunch went well. Penny's hearty Dads' Army Soup was a sell out first, particularly popular for the hungrier men of the village. With a second bowl for a £1 and then a variety of home-made cake available for dessert!

Due to the high winds in March there were a couple of large broken branches on the huge tree at the front of the car park. We consulted the council as the tree is subject to a preservation order. They recommended a tree surgeon, who attended and removed the necessary branches to ensure safety. They said the tree was in very good condition and didn't recommend further lopping.

Thanks to the Monday morning coffee regulars who turned up for the annual village litter pick. We all had a laugh whilst collecting an array of items. Then back to the village hall for lunch.

Future Events

Saturday 4 May 7:30pm – Quiz

A fun evening to stretch the brain cells! Entry £6 per person, includes a ploughman's supper. Bring your own drink and some money for the raffle. Please ring Christine on 01953 885848 to book your team of four in or let her know at Monday morning coffee at the village hall.

Saturday 22 June – Mid-Summer Fest BBQ

Save the date – More information next month

Saturday 27 July – Norfolk Day table top sale 11:00am – 3:00pm and BBQ from 12 noon

Like a lazy bones boot sale as you don't need to get up early! An opportunity to sell items you no longer need, unwanted presents etc. You will need to book your space with Christine for a small charge. Will let you know arrangements nearer the time. But save the date for now.

Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

Heidi Frary (Parish Clerk)

9 May 2019 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

This is an opportunity to hear reports from Local Organisations and for you to give feedback, invitations have been sent to:

- Parish Council (Karen Weir)
- Village Hall (Sue Horton)
- Ladies Group (Linda Birt)
- Fuel Trust (Lyndia Lewis)
- Ovington Church (Ann Johnson)
- Allotment Association (Jill Burgess)
- Bowls Club (Grace Rumsby)
- Ovington Navy (Jeremy Woods)
- Ovington Oracle (Tim Birt)
- Heritage Lottery Update (Chris Springford)
- District Councillor (John Rogers / Theresa Hewett)
- County Councillor (Claire Bowes)

Parish Council (PC)

Heidi Frary (Parish Clerk)

Next meetings

9 May 2019 at 9:00pm (following the APM) in the Village Hall; The Parish Council AGM is an administrative meeting where new Councillors sign acceptance of post and adopt policies.

Legal documents at: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Messages

Sue Horton

Steve and I went to see the Opera Dudes organised by the Silver Social. – see what's on section. A really good afternoon out for five pounds a head (inc tea and cake). They advertise helping out with transport too, as they're trying to reach out to rural communities and those that can't get out so much.

St John's Church

Ann Johnson



Sunday, 5 May
9:30am Holy Communion
Tuesday, 7 May
1:00pm Church Cleaning
Sunday, 19 May
10:30am Pentecost
Sunday 26 May
10:30am *Rogation Sunday

How lovely to see colour in the church on Easter Sunday after the starkness of Lent. A big thank you to all the ladies who provided the flowers.

*Rogation Sunday is when we bless the crops that have been sown in the fields, the allotments and our gardens.

Coffee Morning for Air Ambulance

Jane Lambert

Coffee Morning in aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance at the Village Hall on Saturday 25 May, 10:00am – 2:00pm

tombola | craft | cake stalls | filled rolls

Any Ladies willing to make cakes or help on the day will be much appreciated

So, come along and support this charity in memory of Peter, a very special friend to so many of us.

Many thanks, Jane Lambert

Shipdham Surgery PPG

Carole Playford

The Patient Participation Group (PPG) committee bid their farewells to Dr Rachel Hahn, thanking her for her loyal service to the practice, and welcomed our new GP, Dr Dulika Dooldeniya, who starts work in April.

Geoff Hinchliffe supplied information relating to alcohol and drug abuse and plans to attend Joint Engagement Panel event in April. It is planned to display information regarding dates and contact numbers for AA for Norfolk and Suffolk.

The car park had been resurfaced.

New CCTV installed for internal and external of premises.

Plans being discussed to secure dispensary, with addition of a shutter system to front and back of reception/dispensary areas.

CQC inspection took place in November, ratings were good.

'Ask my GP' online service discussed, as more things moving towards electronic services.

There were 428 'did not attend' (DNA) from 20 September to 21 March which equates to 94.5 hours lost. If you cannot keep your appointment, please let the surgery know. Someone else will be glad of your appointment.

There were a few suggestions in the suggestions box, which were discussed.

- The radio is playing to provide basic privacy at reception.
- Children's toys are not provided due to the difficulty of keeping them hygienically clean, but parents can bring their own.

Have your say:

If there are any issues you would like to address Timothy Birt (Oracle Editor – details back page) is a representative on the PPG and consistently attends meetings on behalf of the village.

What's on nearby:

Fiona Roat



We were very pleased to see so many people at the Thompson Pingo Trail in April, unfortunately the weather was not conducive to seeing Pool Frogs, but everyone seemed to enjoy the walk.

On Sunday 12 May, 10:00am to noon, Tim Holt-Wilson will be leading us on Frosts Common and Cranberry Rough, to visit a late glacial environment and relict periglacial ponds as well as the site of the former Hockham Mere. Tim is very knowledgeable and enthusiastic and is always popular.

Meet in Great Hockham village on the green.

Booking is essential: 01953 717227

Cost: Free

Please leave dogs at home on this occasion.

Sue Horton



The Silver Social is a programme of daytime arts events in the heart of Norfolk, promoting engagement and participation among older residents in rural communities.

Funded from the National Lottery Arts Council strategic touring fund, Silver Social brings 'something a little different' to daily life in rural Breckland.

This month:

Maggie Campbell is an artist and tutor with over 35 years experience of delivering wonderful learning experiences.

Join Maggie for her decorative arts workshop and learn how to make a mosaic picture or place mat by sticking coloured glass tiles to ply boards to make a pattern or picture of your choice.

All art materials will be included in the workshops along with tea and cake! The sessions are open to all ages, with particular focus towards the older people.

Join us at one of the following venues:

Mon, 20 May, 10:30am – noon at Thetford Library

Tues, 21 May, 10:00am – 11:30am at Dereham Library
Tues, 21 May, 2:00pm – 3:30pm at Swaffham Library
Wed, 22 May, 10:00am – 11:30pm at Attleborough Library
Wed, 22 May, 2:00pm – 3:30pm at **Watton Library**

The workshops are FREE to attend, voluntary donations are welcome. If anyone needs transport assistance to attend the event, please contact Silver Social by using the form on www.thesilversocial.com or by calling: 01362 656870.

If you can't make one of the June dates, Maggie is running more between 15-17 July Reserving tickets is recommended using the form at or by calling: 01362 656870.

Next month:

3-7 June – 'Those Magnificent Men' – The Foundry Group

What's on elsewhere:

FoDMH

Regular fourth Thursday (23 May) 10:00am

Coffee Plus!

Come and meet your friends, enjoy a coffee and some live music. Brought to the hall by The Friends of Dereham Memorial Hall.

Contact: Dorothy Sneesby 01362 694654
or dorothy.sneesby@btinternet.com



Fri 3 May – Sun 5 May

DEREHAM GIN & RUM FESTIVAL

From Dereham Round Table, a weekend of exceptional gin, rum, cider and prosecco, together with a fine selection of food and fantastic live music supporting East Anglia's Children's Hospices.

Tickets £5 available online or on the door.

Dereham Memorial Hall new website:

www.derehammemorialhall.info

And finally ...

Rod+Tim

- >> The Vicar noticed old Martha always bent her knee when either Christ or the Devil was mentioned. Asked about this apparently contradictory behaviour, she said
"Well, that dunt corst noffin ter be parlite ... and yew never know !"
- >> Two country yokels were cycling to the May Day Fayre. They came to a sign that said: "May Day Fayre Left".
... so turned round and went home !
- >> The same country yokels were heading home after a day out when one of them noticed some cows.
'What a lovely bunch of cows' he remarked.
'Not a bunch, herd,' his mate replied.
'Heard of what?'
'Herd of cows.'
'Of course I've heard of cows.'
'No, a cow herd.'
'What do I care what a cow heard, I've no secrets to keep from a cow.'



Did you
know ?

That in 2000 a yew tree was planted in the Church grounds to celebrate the millennium. You will be fascinated to learn that over the last nineteen years this specimen has put on at least 25mm (1 inch) of growth. I knew yews were slow growing but this seems ridiculous.

Deadline for next issue: 22 May

Edit and Production: Timothy Birt (01953-889208)
(Printed with my Ecosys printer on Stone House Farm, The Street, Ovington,
100% recycled paper) Thetford, Norfolk. IP25 6RT

Proof reader: Christine Reilly (885848)

Please send contributions to either above or email:

oracle@ovington.org.uk