

The Ovington Oracle

June, 2019

I know this is going to come as a shock, but the summer solstice occurs 4:54pm on 21 June! We will be half way through the solar year.

Could you write a report for the Oracle?

Interesting snippets from real village life add greatly to The Oracle, just 150 words makes an half page story:



- Been somewhere unusual?
- Grown something different?
- Discovered a great recipe
- Maybe you have recycled/re-purposed an object?

Share it with us! Contact details on back page.

Diary Dates

At Village Hall unless indicated

Mondays, 10:30am	Coffee morning, until 11:30am
Mondays, 1:30pm	Bowls
2 June, 9:30am	Holy Communion (Church)
16 June, 10:30am	All age Worship (Church)
18 June, 6:00pm	Ladies Group Pub walk – Chequers, Thompson
22 June, noon	Mid-Summer Fest BBQ
23 June, 6:00pm	Hymns for a Summer Evening (Church)

To book the village hall contact Christine Reilly 885848

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

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Euro Election

Timothy Birt

At time of Oracle writing the European Parliamentary election is taking place. When the polls close at 10:00pm ballot boxes will be sealed until 6:00pm Sunday, when the count will commence. Nothing can be reported until 10:00pm on Sunday as this is the time that all polls close across the whole of Europe.

Ladies Group

Angela Wynne



A dozen members joined us for our meeting on Tuesday 21 May in the Village Hall. Our speakers were from Pets As Therapy. Carole is the Volunteer Coordinator and Dog Assessor for the charity. Angela (not me I hasten to add) assisted her and brought her therapy dog, Buddy, with her. Carole told of all the wonderful work they do. They work in

schools, hospitals, prisons, people with mental health problems, and many others with these wonderful dogs. They also use some cats too. They do some amazing work and if you have a dog that you think may be suitable, contact Carole on 01603 664988. The Ladies Group gave a donation to the charity.

Our next meeting will be our annual "Pub Walk" on Tuesday 18 June. We will meet at The Chequers pub in Thompson and will be ready to leave for our walk at **6:00pm**. There's plenty of parking at the pub. Everyone is most welcome to join us. Members who don't want to walk will be very welcome to join us for the meal. You should be at the Chequers ready to eat at 7:30pm. If you have not already let us know you want to join us, please ring Angela on 01953 884594 when you will be able to make your choices of food (a main and a dessert). Hopefully, the sun will be shining. Plan B if it rains is to meet at The Chequers at 7:30pm for the meal. We look forward to seeing you.

Our meeting on 16 July will once again be an outing. We have planned a visit to Gressenhall Rural Life Museum. We have a deal on the cost, if we can get 12 under 65's, of £11 each. If there are not 12 the cost will be £12.25. If you are under 65 the cost is £12.90. I hope I have made that clear. Rose will collect any monies not already paid and she will also be sorting transport. The group will be leaving Ovington at 1:30pm. I'm afraid I won't be about for this outing so if you have any queries please ring Rose on 01953 882429

The following meeting is 20 August. Hopefully, weather permitting we will have a social evening outside. Please be at the Village Hall for 6:00pm and please bring a plate of food to share. We have done this in the past and are always amazed at the variety of food and rarely have duplicates. We just need the weather to be kind. The competition is something beginning with 'E'.

Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



[Editor: *At Rod's request last month, I tried a rain dance ... with negligible success.*]

The total for April, was just 6.5mm or 0.25"

Up until the 20 May the total stood at 25.5mm or around 1". The rainfall thus far is not exactly in the category of flooding ... yet!

North Ovington Trod

Heidi Frary (Parish Clerk)

Message from Norfolk Highways:

Our contractor has now provided us with the programme date for the construction of remaining section of Ovington Trod. It is now on their programme for 24 June 2019.

This extra section will be constructed with Breedon Gravel material with timber edging. Also due to the location, width of this trod will be narrower than the one that has already been constructed.

St John's Church

Ann Johnson



Sunday, 2 June

9:30am Holy Communion

Tuesday, 4 June

1:00pm Church Cleaning

Sunday, 16 June

10:30am All Age Worship

Sunday 23 June

6:00pm Hymns for a Summer Evening

A big thank you from the Leprosy Mission to all who contributed to the 'Heal Nepal' Appeal supporting the work of the Anandaban Hospital in Nepal. £365.74 was collected in the envelopes but, because the government promised to fund match everything that was raised by the end of April, our total reached £731.48, an amazing amount from our small church and village. A 'Thank You' is pinned on the church noticeboard.

St John's HLF project report

Chris Springford

As mentioned in last month's Oracle there follows a summary of the works which formed part of the HLF project:

- The tower roof leaked – it has had new timbers and new slates installed;
- Originally the church had a weather vane that has been missing for decades, but it has a new one now in the form of a golden cockerel;
- The belfry floor has been replaced and strengthened;
- We have never had a lightning conductor – we now do.
- Masonry was falling from the tower walls – it does not now;
- Cement that had been used for re-pointing the walls and that held the damp in – has now been replaced with traditional mortar on the outside of the church;
- The rainwater goods (drainage and soakaways) were inadequate – they have all been replaced and renewed;

- A hearing loop and a new sound system have been installed in the church. The organ links to this;
- There is a new projection system and CCTV system installed. It has an almost invisible fold-away screen;
- The main door now opens and closes automatically;
- We did not have water in the church for 900 years – we now have cold and hot water on demand. A sink and cupboards with lighting and power points have been added;
- The electrics boxed-in and a book case has been added;
- The internal and external cracks in the walls have been fixed;
- The old chimney stack in the vestry was removed;
- The tower stairway was repaired;
- Cracks in the West wall monument were repaired
- The internal windows have all been cleaned for the first time in years;
- Moving the font has created a bigger meeting space at the back of the church for after service refreshments and for holding small meetings.
- The heaters are now directly mounted to the walls – a DAC request;
- The lights have been changed to LEDs to reduce costs and improve the lighting.
- New chairs were added instead of the pews that were removed.
- A Time Capsule was put into the ground by the bishop containing appropriate documents to reflect the building work done and the schools project. A copy of the book produced by the children involved in the HLF schools programme will be included. It is planned that the time capsule will be opened in 2068.
- A montage of the work done by the children during the HLF project is now on display in the church around the font;
- The reredos has been professionally restored and cleaned;
- The vestry furniture has been replaced;
- A broadband internet connection has been added to the church;
- A church website (framework) was developed and links to the village website. More work is required to complete this, but it does record much of the schools work and photographs of the building project;
- Village visits to see the builders in action were held to see materials being used (including horse hair) to cut into the plaster to match the original plaster;

- A new History of the church has been commissioned;
- Some 700 children and about 35 volunteers from the village and outside contributed to the schools' project;
- A bat survey was conducted by Natural England;
- An Ecology report on the church grounds was prepared by Norfolk Wildlife Trust; and we took part in the Wayland 'Growing Together' project;
- An asbestos survey was done by East Coast Installations;
- The altar linen and backdrops were refreshed and gifted by a villager;
- A professional cleaning operation to the church interior followed the building works and this was supplemented by the huge dedication of the village cleaning team – to get the church back in use for the Christmas services in 2018.
- A time capsule was buried in the churchyard by the bishop of Lynn after a service of re-dedication, held in the church on 29 April 2018.

The things we have not been able to do include:

- Establish a Heritage Trail that links to Carbrooke and Watton;
- Restoration of the lower parts of the internal walls;
- A formal gilding course was not held, but the conservators worked in the church for over a week and several people had the opportunity to see this work in action.
- Limewashing of the whole of the inside of the church;
- Uprighting of the leaning gravestones in the churchyard.

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. One that truly engaged 'Our Village with Our Church'.

For more see: www.ovingtonchurch.co.uk

Local Elections

Timothy Birt

Breckland District Council

The local election was a close result as follows:

Votes	Name	Description
525**	BIRT, Timothy Edward	Green Party
522**	CRANE, Helen Susan	Conservative Party Candidate
469	HEWETT, Theresa Ruth	Conservative Party Candidate

****Elected**, Spoilt ballots: 17, Turnout: 25.77%

Helen and I have been undergoing training at Breckland Council in preparation for serving as your District Councillors for the next 4 years. The exact allocation of 'jobs' is determined by a mechanism which reflects political balance across the Council so neither of us had an absolute say over which jobs we would be doing; Helen is to sit on the Planning committee and I sit on Overview & Scrutiny. We can both make representation to any committee (but not have a vote) or at Full Council meetings where decisions are ratified, but could be amended in some cases.

Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

Heidi Frary (Parish Clerk)

The meeting received reports, either in person or in writing from:

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

Parish Council (PC)

Heidi Frary (Parish Clerk)

The AGM of the PC is an important administrative meeting which must be held within 28 days of the election. This meeting normally follows the APM, however one Councillor was urgently called away which meant we were not quorate. A new meeting was scheduled for the following week. The delayed meeting was held in two parts:

On Wednesday 15 May, elected (unopposed) Councillors signed their acceptance of office, Karen Weir was elected chair (and Timothy Birt vice-chair). The three elected members then, after proper consideration, co-opted David Welsted to the PC. The meeting was then adjourned until Friday 17 May where we completed all other matters.

Administration:

- The Financial Summary for the year 2018/19 was reviewed and accepted.
- Arrangements for the management of risk, statement of internal control, auditors report and financial regulations were review and confirmed.
- Annual Statement of Governance 2018/19 was agreed.
- It was agreed that Zurich remain the most comprehensive cover and shall be our provider for the forthcoming year.
- Parish Council representative on the Fuel Trust shall be shared by Tim Birt and Dave Welsted.

Planning Consultation

Councillors had no formal comment on application 3PL/2019/0448/HOU

Finance

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

Co-option. There is one further vacancy as a Councillor, the PC invites anyone who lives or works in the village to apply. We are pleased that one person has already expressed an interest.

Next meetings

4 July 2019, (5 September, 7 November) at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.
Legal documents at: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Village Hall

Sue Horton

The annual Village Hall quiz provided an evening of entertainment and good humoured rivalry. Eleven teams battled it out, sustained by a ploughman's supper (and in some cases, fuelled by copious amounts of drink!). In the end, there was a tie-break and the "Clangers" emerged triumphant. Time was when every team actually came from Ovington, but this year, none of the 43 contestants were from the village. However, it was a fun-filled evening which raised £270 for village hall funds.

Recycling

Thank you to everyone who supports the recycling banks outside the village hall. This year we received £293.62. Recycling has declined a bit compared to the previous two years. Summer is approaching, so maybe it's time to update your wardrobe or simply make some space by casting out items you haven't worn for over a year. The textile bank takes shoes as well as fabric items, the heavier the better! So don't forget to include old towels, sheets, blankets, curtains and those steel capped boots! But no duvets please.

'Keep calm and carry on'... drinking and eating anything that comes in a bottle or a jar. We're missing a cash opportunity for the village, if we put glass in our wheelie bins. Pop it in the recycling bank instead, when you're out for a stroll or passing in the car. Many thanks again.

Future Events

Saturday 22 June – Mid-Summer Fest BBQ, from 12:00 noon

Come along and join us for food and games. No need to book, just turn up on the day. And if you've got friends or family visiting bring them along. There will be a raffle, so bring some extra cash

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. Those wishing to have a 'table top sale' in their garden or in the village hall will need to book in with Christine for a small charge, so that we can include your details in the map. Let Christine know if you wish to join in by 13 July, by ringing 01953 885848, or let her know at Monday morning coffee at the village hall.

The idea is for people to walk or park their cars at the village hall to

collect a map of those participating in the event. Then wander through the village and see what gems and bargains you can find. We will be putting up posters, so that folk outside Ovington know about the event.

There will be refreshments available throughout the event and a BBQ from 1:00 – 3:00pm.

We know that some of you have interesting collections, hobbies or interests. We're hoping that some of you might like to display these, so others can have a look. Something a little different, to show what us Norfolk folk get up to in our spare time!

Sunday 11 August – Wacky Scrappy Gravity Race and Village Hall BBQ

There will be refreshments and a BBQ available at the village Hall. This year's competition will be a recycling challenge. There will be 3 categories, each with prizes on offer. There will be one entry fee of £3 and you can enter all 3 categories if you wish. Entrants should create items out of recycled, second-hand materials (nothing new). The categories are:

1. Wearable
2. Useful
3. Decorative

So start collecting and creating now!

For those of you who enjoy coming to the live shows brought to us by Creative Arts East, we are trying to book two more shows for this autumn, so watch this space for details. We are hoping to bring you 'Comedy of Errors' on 26 October and 'Mumbo Jumbo' on 23 November.

STOP PRESS: These have now been booked, so keep the dates free. More details next month.

Messages

Gracie May

EDP LEGO school vouchers

A BIG BIG thank you to those of you who gave my GT Gran EDP Lego vouchers for me to take to school.

With your help and others I was able to hand over about 1500 vouchers to my school, who thank you all very much. This will enable us to get at least £50 worth of teaching Lego.

Thank you, Gracie May

Grace Rumsby

CARPET BOWLS CLUB (1.30 – 3.30pm)

We are still looking for new members to join our friendly club, Unfortunately we have lost members due to ill health and moving away to be near family.

If you are interested just pop along on most Monday afternoons at 1:30pm. The first visit is free and there will be instructions how to play if you have never played before.

Look forward to seeing you

Calling all Scrappy Competitors

Timothy Birt

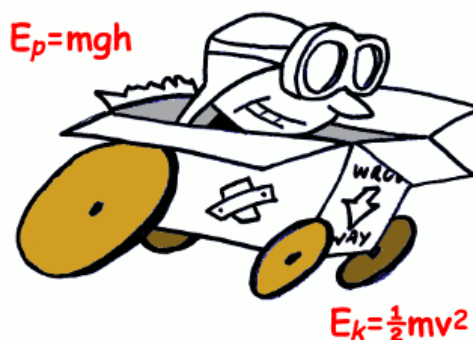
Full details and an application form for the Wacky Scrappy Gravity Race 2019 are at:

www.ovington.org.uk/wsgr

Race Day: **Sunday 11 August**

Young or old, experienced or not, all are welcome. Get your application in and start building your scrap masterpiece, the rattier the better!

If you know someone who may like to take part, please pass on the link.



Shipdham Surgery – Measles

Carole Playford – PPG Secretary

A message from the Patients' Participation Group (PPG) of Shipdham Surgery. The PPG is a group of local people representing your views.

www.shipdhamsurgery.nhs.uk

01362 820225

Measles is a highly infectious viral disease, symptoms can be varied, from fever to soreness of eyes, and is contagious. A rash typically follows a few days later after symptoms start.

Since October 2017, outbreaks have been reported in several counties in the UK, which are linked to outbreaks in Europe. The USA have also had outbreaks as well. This is due to having low vaccine coverage.

The disease usually lasts 7-10 days, and continues to be one of the leading causes of death in young children, even though a safe vaccine is available.

If you are not immune when you are pregnant, there's a risk of pregnancy complications. If you are pregnant and think you have come into contact with someone suffering from measles, please make an appointment to see your GP as soon as possible.

Anyone travelling to Europe or parts of the USA, should ensure they are up to date with their MMR vaccinations.

The MMR vaccine is available to all adults and children who are not up to date with their two doses of vaccine. Anyone who is not sure if they are protected should check with their GP practice.

What's on nearby:

Saham Toney Village Hall Car Boot Sale

Bank holiday Monday 27 May, 11:00am – 2:00pm

Wells Cole Community Centre (IP25 7HD). BBQ and bar open.

Sellers setup at 10:00 am. Cars £5 Vans £10. Turn up on the day.

Sue Horton



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

'Those Magnificent Men' – The Foundry Group

2019 is the centenary of one of the greatest moments of aviation history and a truly British First – the first ever non-stop flight across the Atlantic.

The nail-biting, side splitting true story of this daredevil flight by pilot Capt. John Alcock and navigator Lt. Arthur Whitten Brown is told in the hit stage play.

So strap yourself in and cry "Chocks away!" for a show with thrills, spills and uproarious comedy. Join us at one of the following venues:

Thur 6 June, 2:00pm-3:30pm at **Shipdham, All Saints Church**

Also at Ashill Community Centre (Mon 3), Harling Old School Village Hall (Tues 4), Attleborough Town Hall (Wed 5), Necton Community Centre (Fri 7).

Tickets: £5 including refreshments. Booking recommended at www.thesilversocial.com or by calling: 01362 656870.

If anyone needs transport assistance to attend the event, please contact Silver Social on above number.

Keith & Caroline

Thompson Grand Second hand book sale – 13 July

Book a 3mx3m pitch for £10 to do your own thing (not books or food) and join in the fun day – you provide gazebo, etc. Book by 30 June.

See www.thompsoncommunityhall.co.uk

What's on elsewhere:

www.derehammemorialhall.info

15 June, 10:00am – 4:00pm

MIND BODY SPIRIT EXHIBITION

35 exhibitors featuring readers, healers, remedies, therapies and spiritual gifts.

Free Entry

Enquire or book: www.spiritualflowevents.com



4 June, 7:30pm

Four by Four on Tour

Eight (New) 'Radio' Plays written for the stage.

Tickets £7 (£6 for Friends)

25 June, 7:30pm

Film Night: WILD ROSE (15 – strong language/sex) 100 mins

Glaswegian mother-of-two Rose Lynn must choose between her responsibility to her children and her burning ambition to break into Nashville's country music scene. Meanwhile, her mother, played by Julie Walters, wonders ruefully whether she will ever really grow up.

Tickets £6 (£5 for Friends) limited to 46 - available online or on the door.

Enquire or book at www.ticketsource.co.uk/fodmh

Ken Hawkins

Meadows in May – Bank Holiday Monday 27 May

Starting at 09:45am from The George Hotel Swaffham Road, Dereham NR19 2AZ.

The walk is about 6¾ miles, taking about 2¾ hours, including a short break for those bringing mid walk refreshments (or who just want a rest).



Tickets cost £7, which includes tea/coffee and cake at The George on our return. Booking is essential contact:

Ken Hawkins dtc.fpwarden@talktalk.net or 07505 426750.#

Full details at www.DerehamWaW.org.uk

120th Bradenham Fete

Bank holiday Monday 27 May, 11:00am – 3:00pm
at Bradenham Village Green (IP25 7QN). **Free entry**

Event includes Sports and Classic Transport.

And finally ...

Rod

- >> Man in Garden Centre to assistant:
"I want to grow my own food but can't find
the bacon seeds!!"
- >> Sign in Pub:
Alcohol may not solve your problems but neither
will water or milk!!
In the same pub:
TODAY'S OFFER: buy ANY 2 drinks ... and pay for them both!
- >> The 50 / 50 rule:
Any time you have a 50 : 50 chance of getting something right,
there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong!!!



Did you
know ?

Renamed – 'Can you remember':

The Mills family down the Carbrooke end of Ovington
used to, in season, sell strawberries from a converted
railway carriage in their drive.

Deadline for next issue: 22 June

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