

# The Ovington Oracle

September, 2019

This may come as a shock:

The autumnal equinox is on 23 September, at 08:50am to be precise.

Despite a few hot spells, it seems to have been a dull summer so far, this is borne out by the slightly lower yield on my solar panels. I'm hoping for an Indian summer after the equinox to make up.



The largest festival of history and culture in the UK is between 13 and 22 September. With 5000 events it's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – all of which are **FREE**.

You can search for events all over the country or narrow it down to specific locations using the advanced search at:

[www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

## Diary Dates

*At Village Hall unless indicated*

Mondays, 10:30am	Coffee morning, until 11:30am
Mondays, 1:30pm	Bowls
1 Sept, 9:30am	Holy Communion (Church)
10 Sept, 1:30pm	Ladies Group – Gressenhall visit
14 Sept, 9:00am+	Norfolk Churches Bike Ride (Church until 5:00pm)
15 Sept, 10:30am	Harvest Festival with auction (Church)
17 Sept, 7:45pm	Ladies Group
18 Sept, 7:30pm	Parish Council
21 Sept, 10:00am	Church Coffee Morning
22 Sept, 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](http://www.ovington-village.org.uk)

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## Obituary: Gordon North

*Village*

It is with sadness that we must record the passing of another long-term resident of Ovington. Gordon North will be remembered for his many practical skills, working on a considerable number of properties in the village: roofs, chimneys, walls, foundations to mention but a few. In his early career he had worked on skyscrapers and oil rigs, so had little fear of heights. Before moving to Ovington in 1985, he ran a greengrocery in Watton High Street, getting up before dawn to drive from Essex to Lincolnshire to stock up with fresh veg.



His building expertise was called on just days after moving in to the village, when he helped to dig the footings for the Village Hall extension. In 2010 he installed a much-needed new kitchen in the Village Hall. Unfortunately in recent years ill-health prevented him from doing more than a few smaller DIY projects at home. A bit of a prankster, he liked to put the 'fun' into fundraising and loved to join in with village events. Our condolences go to his family, so soon after the loss of Julie.

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## Ladies Group

Angela Wynne



We had perfect weather for our August meeting so we were able to enjoy our picnic outside in the Village Hall grounds. We had a massive amount of food brought along by our members. Thank you ladies for giving us such a feast. We had 12 members present. The competition was something beginning with E. We had several elephants brought along, but all very different. There were 3 winners who all received 5 points – Grace, Hilda and Maureen. Well done ladies.

As you may remember we cancelled our trip to Gressenhall on July 16th, as that was the funeral day of Julie North and we felt it would have been inappropriate. We shall now be having the outing on **Tuesday 10 September**. Angela and Rose will ring all those coming nearer the date, with travelling arrangements. We'll probably be leaving the village at 1:30pm. I hope we are lucky and have another lovely sunny day. If any members would like to join us please ring Rose and we will add your name to the list. If you are a senior citizen it will cost £11. If you are still one of the youngsters I'm afraid it will cost £12.50.

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 17 September** beginning at 7:45pm. David Bowyer will be speaking to us about self sufficiency in Norfolk. It's actually all about the Good Life in Norfolk. Sounds as though it will be really interesting.

The competition is something beginning with 'F'.

Look forward to seeing you all there.

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## Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



Rainfall report for this rural paradise:

July totalled 40.5mm or 1.6", most of which fell in the latter half of the month.

August to date (22nd), is 25mm or 1", evenly spread.

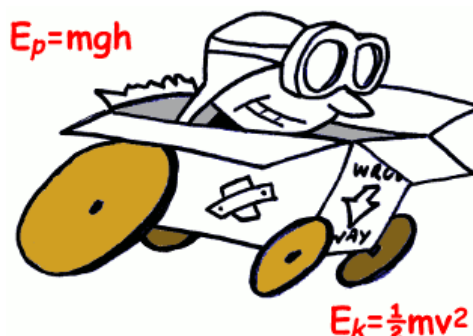
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# Wacky Scrappy Gravity Race

Timothy Birt

What a great day!

Twelve competitors were foolish enough to think they could tame gravity and win the coveted race trophy. Most were splendidly over-confident. Some crashed, many came away with bent wheels or broken parts (see classic disclaimer below)\*\*.



The overall Winner was Patrick with 'The Cart with No Name', one of the rattiest and scrappiest carts, which was also fast!

The recipient of the Wackiest trophy went to Jason with 'Barber Bodge Job', with its outrageous (fake) engine and properly bodged construction.

There is a write up of the day, with lots of pictures at:

**[www.ovington.org.uk/wsgr](http://www.ovington.org.uk/wsgr)**

The page is being updated and I'll add a few videos soon.

\*\* No people were hurt in the making of this amusing spectacle, though some pride was dented.

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## Messages

Christine

Our best wishes go to Susie Mortimer who has been in hospital for the past couple of weeks. We hope she is soon recovering at home.

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## Shipdham Surgery – Flu Vaccination

*Melissa Greeves*

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Please contact the Surgery to book your Flu Vaccination slot, appointments being taken for Saturday 28 September.

A separate clinic for under 18's will be announced at a later date.

Please support your GP practice by having your vaccination with us.

The Flu vaccination provides the best protection against an unpredictable virus which infects many people and can cause serious illness and death each year.

The vaccination is free and recommended yearly for those most at risk of flu. This includes:

- Children who are aged 2 to 10 (but not eleven years or older) on 31 August 2019 \*
- Pregnant women
- Those aged six months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups.
- Those aged 65 years and older.
- Those in long stay residential care homes.
- People with caring responsibilities
- Those in close contact with immunocompromised individuals

If there is someone you rely on to care for you, please ask them to contact their own GP Practice as they may be eligible for a free flu vaccination.

\*Preschool children aged 2 to 3 years will be vaccinated at their general practice. Children aged 4 to 10 years (born between 1st September 2008 and 31st August 2015) will usually be vaccinated at school.

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# St John's Church

Ann Johnson



Sunday, 1 Sept

9:30am Holy Communion

Tuesday, 3 Sept

1:00pm Church Cleaning

Saturday 14 Sept

9:00am – 5:00pm \*\* Norfolk Churches Bike Ride

Sunday, 15 Sept

10:30am \* Harvest Festival with Auction

Saturday 21 Sept

10:00am – noon \*\*\* Coffee Morning

Sunday 22 Sept

6:00pm Hymns for a Summer Evening

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Sunday, 29 Sept **St Mary's Church, Watton**

3:30pm Confirmation with Bishop  
Jonathan and Confirmation Tea

## \* HARVEST FESTIVAL

If anybody has any produce which they would like to donate to the church for the Harvest Festival and Auction we would be very grateful. Just bring it along to the church between 9:00am – 5:00pm on Saturday or to the service on Sunday morning – Thank you. The produce will be auctioned after the service. Thank you to all the ladies who decorate the church.

## \*\*\* COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 21 September, 10:00 – noon, in the Village Hall

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**RAFFLE TOMBOLA CRAFTS CAKES AND MORE**

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Come and meet your friends for a coffee and chat

Any contributions may be left in the church or given to any church member and cakes may be brought on the morning.

## \*\* NORFOLK CHURCHES BIKE RIDE

If anybody in the village would like to cycle round to the local churches on Saturday 14 September, and be sponsored to raise money for Ovington Church, there are forms in the church or Kelly and I have some as well. Half the money recieved goes to Ovington Church and half goes

to the Norfolk Churches Trust who spend the money preserving churches in our county. This can be a fun day and most of the churches you visit have refreshments to offer you. Thanks to all who have offered to sit in our church to welcome any riders.

### **Future Church Events**

10:30am	Sunday	20 October	Pet Service
10:30am	Sunday	10 November	Remembrance Service
6:00pm	Sunday	22 December	Carol Service
10:30am	Wednesday	25 December	Christmas Day Service
10:30am	Sunday	29 December	Group Service

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## **Parish Council (PC)**

*Heidi Frary (Clerk)*

### **Next meeting:**

Wednesday, 18 September 2019, at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Following meeting 20 November 2019

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

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# Village Hall

*Sue Horton / Christine Reilly*

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## **Wacky Scrappy Gravity Race and Village Hall BBQ**

Thank you very much to everyone who helped to make the Wacky Races day a success for the village hall. The tombola almost sold out and it was extremely busy in the kitchen with refreshments: we were down to our last slice of cake and the BBQ sold out altogether. After all expenses, a significant £397.73 was raised for village hall funds. The recycling challenge was not so popular as last year's tote bag competition. This was disappointing for those entrants who had spent so many hours creating their 'wearable, decorative or useful' items. The outright winner was Harriett Woods who won £10 for her beautiful dog quilt. Second prize of £5 went to Jill Burgess for her pin cushion.

## **Charity Christmas Cards**

By the time you receive this, we will have taken delivery of our very first 'Ovington Village Hall' charity Christmas cards. They will be available for purchase at coffee mornings, at any events in the next few months or direct from me (ring 885848 to reserve). There are two designs to choose from, priced at only £2.50 per pack of 10 high quality cards. Each card is printed with the charity details and has the greeting "With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year". Please support your village hall by buying at least one pack to send to your friends and relations. Don't miss out, stocks are limited!

## **Future Events:**

We had booked two shows for the autumn and one for the New Year. Unfortunately the Arts Council pulled funding for the 'Comedy of Errors' production. So I'm afraid this will NOT go ahead on 26 October.

The Village Hall Committee are planning another event for October, watch this space for details.

23 November 'No Hit Wonders' – Mumbo-Jumbo

We need to provide overnight accommodation for up to four people for the Mumbo-Jumbo event. There will be one free ticket to the show for each person accommodated. If anyone can host, please let Christine know. We appreciate this will probably mean two hosts. They are content to share in twin rooms.

29 February 'I, AmDram' – Hannah Maxwell



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# Nature Report from The Street

*Rod Rumsby*

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There has been an increase in night time activity in the garden recently, some visitors are more than welcome but there are others who are less so.

Popular visitors include a very obese hedgehog, who appears just as it gets dusk every evening and does a circuit of the patio and the large pots thereon before going hunting around the rest of the garden. These activities have certainly reduced the depredations caused by snails and slugs. It was decided to supplement the hedgehog diet to ensure their presence as snail hunters continued. Initially a tinned concoction which was recommended but smelt quite revolting was put into a shallow dish on the normal route. This was received by our spiky friend with utter delight and the lot was scoffed in one short sitting, not being able to locate further supplies of this mixture, advice was sought from the local pet food suppliers as to what was the best alternative. The suggestion was to get a bag of what looked like little biscuits which the blurb on the packet assured buyers would prove irresistible to hedgehogs. Not, sadly, to our spiky friend who just walked all over the dish with the biscuits in that had previously contained their favourite snack, not even stopping to have a sniff. This continued for several nights, still he showed no interest, so this wonder food was left out until the early birds made short work of it in the morning.

The unwelcome visitors are mainly cats who have a tendency to seek out Blackbirds nests and consume the eggs or the young birds. Moor hens have raised, not entirely successfully, four broods this year, the parents are most belligerent and will see off all other feathered visitors, large and small.

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## What's on nearby:

Amanda Moffett

### Thompson Community Hall – IP24 1PY Grand Second-Hand Book Sale

Saturday 14 September, from 10:00am to 4:00pm, **free entry**.

The third of this year's Grand Book Sales in Thompson Community Hall. As always, we will have a huge selection of books at exceptionally low prices, some as low as 25p. There will be a range of seasonal cooking and crafting books. We will also have CDs and DVDs for sale.

The theme chosen this time is "Produce and Preserves"

As usual we will have plenty of good food available: scones, bacon butties, sandwiches and cakes for example. There will be plenty of cakes to take away too. Proceeds will be shared between Thompson Community Hall, Griston's church and Thompson's church.

We look forward to welcoming you to Thompson Community Hall once again to our Grand Book Sale from 10:00am to 4:00pm **entry is free**.

### Thompson Movie Nights

Friday 20 September, 7:00pm – Fisherman's Friends

A fast-living, cynical London music executive (Danny Mays) heads to a remote Cornish village on a stag weekend where he's pranked by his boss (Noel Clarke) into trying to sign a group of shanty singing fishermen (led by James Purefoy). He becomes the ultimate 'fish out of water' ...

A variety of different movies shown regularly throughout the year. Cost is £5 per person and includes a pot of **free** popcorn. Ice creams also available.

For more information see [www.thompsoncommunityhall.co.uk](http://www.thompsoncommunityhall.co.uk)

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Breckland Council



'Beginners Letterpress Printing' with Print to the People is fully booked.

Next month between 7-10 October: The Tangram Theatre presents John Hinton's 'The Origin of Species,' a musical comedy about Charles Darwin. £5

For information on this and future events see:  
[www.thesilversocial.com/events](http://www.thesilversocial.com/events)

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## What's on elsewhere:

[www.derehammemorialhall.info](http://www.derehammemorialhall.info)

### Live Professional Wrestling

13 September, doors open 7:00pm.

Another full-house is expected for the sixth visit of Falling Starr Wrestling. Shows are a mix traditional British wrestling, high-flying action and colourful characters creating a dynamic, action-packed spectacle of entertainment for all the family. The action begins at 7:30pm.

Tickets £12 adults, £8 children  
£35 family (2 adults 2 children)

Enquire or book at: [www.skiddle.com/e/13579198](http://www.skiddle.com/e/13579198)



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*Fiona Roat*

### Bat and Moth Evening, with BBQ:



On Sunday 8 September from 6:00pm, we are hosting a BBQ, Bat and Moth evening at Weeting Heath, IP26 4NQ. This is a social event with optional BBQ, details on booking. This proved very popular last year and is a good way for the group to get to know its supporters.

Booking is essential, ring Lesley: 01953 717227

Cost: £2 members, £3 non-members. BBQ extra

Contact Fiona ([fionaroat@btinternet.com](mailto:fionaroat@btinternet.com)) to be added to our email list.

## And finally ...

Rod

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"How much are them melons" Bert asked the greengrocer.  
"Seventy Five pence each or two for a pound "  
came the reply.  
"Right you are then" said Bert. "Here's twenty Five pence, I'll have the other one".



Did you  
know ?

Did you know that if you stand on the highest point in Ovington you can see at least five Church Towers, more easily during the Winter months. Anyone know which ones they are?

*[Editor: stop getting us to do your work, just tell us! ]*

### Deadline for next issue: 23 September

Edit and Production: Timothy Birt (01953-889208)  
(Printed with my Ecosys printer on Stone House Farm, The Street, Ovington,  
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