

The Ovington Oracle

March 2020

The Vernal Equinox is on 20 March, at 3:49am to be precise, this marks the start of astronomical spring. Meteorological spring always starts on 1 March.

On 28 March at 8:30pm is 'Earth Hour', an event organised by WWF. Many people switch off artificial lighting for an hour as a symbol of commitment to our planet. For more details see:

www.earthhour.org



Finally, a reminder that clocks advance an hour to British Summer Time on Sunday 29 March, to give us brighter, longer evenings. Hopefully, it will have stopped raining by then.

Diary Dates

At Village Hall unless indicated

Mondays, 10:30am	Coffee morning, until 11:30am
Second Tue, 7:00pm	Second Tuesday of the month – Carpet Bowls
27 Feb, 7:30pm	Village Hall AGM
1 Mar, 9:30am	Holy Communion (Church)
15 Mar, 10:30am	All Age Worship (Church)
18 Mar, 7:30pm	Parish Council
22 Mar, 10:30am	Mothering Sunday Service (Church)

To book the village hall contact Christine Reilly 885848

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

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Messages part 1

Editor

We are happy to accept contributions where names are not published but neither *The Oracle* nor the *Parish Council* are platforms for trolling or demanding replies to false speculation. For the first time since editing *The Oracle*, I've received a letter without a name or address wanting a public reply printed.

Rod Rumsby

Would the gentleman who allowed his dog to poo on my drive and fail to clear it up on Saturday 8 Feb, kindly call in and retrieve the leavings as I have preserved them, wrapped carefully in a copy of the Times, including the crossword page. Thank you.

Jeremy Woods

Following issues with road and ditch flooding at the west end of the village it has been reported that a small quantity of untreated waste including wet wipes, etc, have been bypassing septic tanks and entered the surface water drain.

Please would residents of The Street, especially the north side check their septic tanks are operating properly and are emptied as required.

Village Litter Pick

Timothy Birt

Advance notice to keep your diary clear for the annual village litter pick.

We will meet at 10:30am on Saturday 4 April at the Village Sign, near Crown Crescent. As usual picking equipment will be provided, but please wear suitable clothing including strong shoes or boots and gardening gloves.



I'm hoping that coffee-and-cake awaits us afterwards in the village hall.

Parish Council (PC)

Timothy Birt

Unconfirmed minutes of the additional meeting on 15 January 2020 to consider planning application 3PL/2020/0086/O.

TB explained the role of the PC as a 'statutory consultee' within the planning system. The PC had to pass comment on behalf of the whole village and that comments must be based on sound planning reasoning taking into account the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and recently adopted Breckland Local Plan (LP).

To frame the discussion the relevant policy statement HOU05 (Small Villages and Hamlets Outside of Settlement Boundaries) was read out.

The meeting was suspended for public participation.

Discussion was mainly around new driveways accessing Church Road, the impact on pedestrians using Church Road, flooding & ditch maintenance, HGV nuisance especially during construction. The applicant was present and able to allay some of the concerns raised. It was suggested that this development is far greater in scale than would have been permitted under the original HOU05 policy and would grow the village by around 9%. The debate was split between those seeing an advantage by enabling some younger people to make their homes in the village and those opposed due to scale and impact.

The meeting resumed

Councillors discussed the public session comments to formulate a PC

response:

The Parish Council opposes the development while the following issues are assessed:

1. This development adversely impacts on a vitally important and extensively used pedestrian route to access the church, allotments and village hall. Church Road is also a popular dog walking route but is narrow and pedestrians share the space with vehicles.
2. There is a history of flooding along Church Road. Additional run-off from the proposed development may add to the existing problem. A contributing factor may be that a ditch alongside the proposed site has been neglected.

Simple mitigation measures could alleviate many of the community concerns by including a footpath along Church Road and restoring (or replacing) the ditch to east of Church Road.

The Parish Council is further concerned that:

1. Access to the highway be properly evaluated including viability splays and that an adequate turning radius is included due to the narrowness of the Church Road.
2. That restrictions be placed on vehicles during construction to ensure other users are not obstructed.

The Parish Council notes that HOU05 has no development limit but this single application expands the village by more than expected over the whole plan period in Villages with Boundaries (policy HOU04).

Individual comments are encouraged and can be made at the Breckland planning portal:

<http://planning.breckland.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningSearch>

Enter either the reference number (3PL/2020/0086/O) or search by using the drop down menu listing all applications in the Ovington parish.

Next meetings:

18 March, then 20 May (AGM and including Annual Parish Meeting), 15 July, 16 September and 18 November. All at the Village Hall at 7:30pm

Legal documents at: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Messages part 2

Village

Ovington offers a warm welcome to Mr A Phillips who has moved into a property on Dereham Road. We hope to see you and welcome you personally at some of our many social gatherings.

Denise Capion

I would like to thank everyone involved in preparing the wonderful spread of refreshments at the village hall after mum's funeral service.

I appreciated very much your warm hospitality and although I didn't know many of you, you made me feel welcome and helped to make this day special.

You will be pleased to learn that the donations for Macmillan Cancer Support has so far made £420

Best wishes to you all,

Denise (Rosemary Philpot's daughter)

Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



Total rainfall for January 2020 was 58.5mm or 2.3".

Up to today, 21 Feb, this month reads as 60mm or 2.36" with more rain forecast.

Village Hall

Sue Horton and Christine Reilly

The first evening of carpet bowls took place on 28 January. There were about 12 of us, with many novices bowling for the first time, assisted by our practised village friends with the rules and techniques. Tea, coffee and cake at half time. Everyone thought it was a success and were keen to have another go. So we slipped another evening in shortly after. This is now going to be a permanent event taking place at 7:00pm on the second Tuesday of each month. £1 per player to cover costs.

Dates for the next three months – 10 March, 14 April and 12 May

The village hall lobby has had a face lift and is now looking bright and welcoming.

Please continue putting your glass bottles and jars into the bottle bank outside the village hall rather than in your recycling bins. Every little helps to raise funds for the village. So time to spring clean your wardrobes and cupboards. The textile bank takes a range of items – shoes, boots, towels, sheets, blankets and curtains. No duvets or pillows please. This year's credit for glass and clothes was £341.57 a little bit more than the previous year. Many thanks

Live Show at the Village Hall

There was plenty of music and laughter in the VH on Saturday, as Hannah Maxwell performed her one-woman show "I, AmDram". She took us on a journey from King's Cross to Welwyn, illustrating her upbringing in a family steeped in amateur dramatics and incorporating her considerable musical and acting talents. There was audience participation, comedy moments, as well as elements of pure pathos - giving us food for thought.

Talking of food, thanks to all the VH committee members who provided the after show nibbles. Compliments were received and representatives from a VH near Norwich said they would have to "up their game" at future events!

Unfortunately there were 18 empty seats so the VH sustained a small loss of just over £125 after costs. Don't miss the next show – come and support your village hall!

Future Events

Thurs 27 February – Village Hall AGM 7:30pm

Everyone welcome. There have been quite a few newcomers to the village. Come along and see what goes on and let us have any ideas of the type of events you'd like to see at the village hall. If you can't make the AGM and have ideas for events, or regular weekly/monthly groups please let Christine know. The committee are getting together on Monday 2nd March to consider suggestions for events and fundraising ideas.

Sat 16 May – Canterbury Tales – 7:00pm for a 7:30 start

A one-man performance. Revered as one of the most important works in English literature, 'The Canterbury Tales' paints an ironic and critical portrait of English society in the middle-ages.

All of life is here in these few bawdy, funny, serious and sometimes shocking, short stories. Experience a journey down the foul and fetid footpaths of 14th century England, told with the usual irreverence, wit and silliness! There will be middle-ages naughtiness and nonsense, There may be tights and a codpiece. There will, no doubt, be some medieval swearing ... let's Party like it's 1387! This is Chaucer ... but not as you've ever seen it.

Tickets £10 will include some savoury nibbles. There will also be a limited bar selling beer, wine and light refreshments. And don't forget a few extra pounds for the raffle. Tickets available from Christine at Monday morning coffee or by ringing Christine on 885848.

Get Creative

The creative challenge for this year's competition at the Wacky Scrappy Gravity Race is to decorate a Christmas stocking. For the entry fee of £3 you will be given a plain calico stocking to decorate in whatever fashion you choose. Winners will be decided by public vote and cash prizes awarded. Start planning your entry now. Something to get your children or grandchildren involved in? Stockings returned ... ready to hang up for Santa. Get your stocking from Christine as above.

World Day of Prayer 2020

Margaret Cator via Grace Rumsby

A Service for Everyone

Praying with Zimbabwe

Friday 6 March at 2:00pm

at Watton Methodist Church, High Street, Watton

Followed by refreshments, all are welcome.

Many thanks for your help and best wishes, Margaret Cator.



St John's Church

Ann Johnson



Sunday,
1 Mar, 9:30am Holy Communion

Thursday,
5 Mar, 1:00pm Church Cleaning

Sunday,
15 Mar, 10:30am All Age Worship

Sunday, Mothering Sunday Service with
22 Mar, 10:30am the distribution of posies

Sunday,
29 Mar, 10:30am Group Service at Ashill Church

There will be no flowers in church during Lent, other than on the memorial windowsill.

Church Pews

Following the restoration of St John's Church, the PCC have now received permission from the Diocese of Norwich to dispose of the three pews which were removed from the church during the reordering work. The PCC have agreed that the pews should be offered for sale, firstly to the residents of Ovington, at the valuation price of £100 each. Residents wishing to purchase a pew should contact the PCC Secretary, Mrs Ann Johnson, Barley Croft, 47 The Street, Ovington, in writing, in the first instance, no later than 31 March 2020, after which they will be auctioned with a fixed reserve of £100.

A message from Jean Rockett, Lay Minister, St. John's Church

Finally, it seems, that the storm Dennis is over and hopefully you have not been badly affected by it. Laying awake and listening to the wind howling around my home I was reminded of the bible story of the Storm on the Lake where Jesus and His disciples were in a boat. Jesus fell asleep, and while He was resting a storm began, tossing the boat, and the disciples were so afraid, because they thought that the boat and they would be swept into the sea. They woke Jesus who calmed the storm with the words "Peace, be still", and immediately the storm died down, and all were saved. I put my trust in the Lord and prayed that we would all be saved, and we were.

Storm Dennis was quite frightening at times, and I was so glad that I was not on a fishing boat on a lake, but safe within the strong walls of my home, knowing that the Lord was there with me, and his protective hand was there for you too.

Peace be with you.

What's on nearby:

Fiona Roat

We started off 2020 as we hope to go on, with a very good attendance for Martin Hosier's talk and photos about Wildlife in Borneo. A fascinating place and some wonderful photos and tales of his and his wife's holiday there, enough to make you go green!



On Wednesday 11 March we have Return of the Osprey with Brenda and Richard Todd, who have worked with wildlife for many years.

Brenda and Richard will give us an illustrated talk on the history, changes and developing story of the Osprey's return to Scotland as a breeding bird. Including their protection and conservation issues.

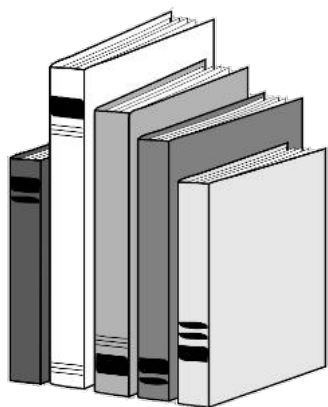
Venue: Watton Christian Community Centre, High Street. IP25 6AB

Cost: £2 members, £3 non-members, no booking, refreshment included.

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

Caroline Archer

Thompson Grand Second Hand Book Sale



Our first sale of the year is on Saturday 7 March at Thompson Community Hall IP24 1PY.

Doors open from 10:00am until 4:00pm, with refreshments including cakes, scones, and light lunches served until 3:30pm.

We will have our usual spread of well over a thousand books laid out for you to browse, with still no book costing more than one pound!

To make it easier the books are divided into subjects, with separate areas for fiction, children's and bargains. There will be a chocolate tombola to try your luck at, plus this time we decided to put out CDs, DVDs, audio tapes, and vinyl. In the foyer and outside we'll have all sorts of plants, pots, and garden items for sale.

Looking ahead to the summer sale on Saturday 6 June, we are once again opening up the lovely Millennium Green to people to sell their own goods, more details from Caroline, 01953 880153.



'Sing Happy' Workshop with Kate Dimbleby

In this second set of workshops, Kate will teach the group some of the songs from her show SING HAPPY. Focusing on singing together and creating rhythms and harmony inspired by songs from 50's and 60's, the workshop will include classic songs as well as ones we make up on the spot! Come and

have fun.

We have limited space in the library venues, so please do reserve a ticket in advance to guarantee a place on the day.

Watton Library – Wednesday 18 March, 2:00pm-3.30pm

Also at:

Thetford Library – Monday 16 March, 10:30am - noon

Dereham Library – Tuesday 17 March, 10:00am - 11:30am

[Swaffham Library & Attleborough Library fully booked]

The workshops are FREE to attend, voluntary donations are welcome.

Free Transport: If you are a Breckland resident and need a lift to any of our events, please let us know via the web-site or by calling: 01362 656870.

www.thesilversocial.com/events

Geoff Pritchard

Swaffham Jazz

The Ella McCready Trio: Ella McCready vocals, Ivan McCready cello and Ian MacGregor keyboard.

£8 on the door – Tuesday 10 Mar 7:30pm

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



And finally ...

Rod+Tim

Random thoughts:

- >> If I had known I was going to live this long I would have taken better care of myself!
- >> In spite of the cost of living, it is still very popular.
- >> If you look like your passport photograph, you are too ill to travel.



Logic Puzzle (answer next month):

31 bags each contain 50 coins. All the coins look identical however in one bag the coins are extremely valuable but all the others are worthless. You may choose and keep the contents of only one bag.

The valuable coins weigh 10.01g whereas the worthless coins weigh exactly 10.00g. You may make just one measurement on an accurate electronic weighing scale before making your choice.

How do you find the riches?

Deadline for next issue: 22 March

Edit and Production: Timothy Birt (01953-889208)
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100% recycled paper) Thetford, Norfolk. IP25 6RT

Proof reader: Christine Reilly (885848)

Please send contributions to either above or email:

oracle@ovington.org.uk