

The Ovington Oracle

June 2020

COVID-19 (Coronavirus Illness)

Lock-down has been eased, but the most important action individuals can take remains to stay at home; washing your hands often – with soap and water for at least 20-seconds or use a hand sanitiser. Wash hands when you get home or to work, when you blow your nose, sneeze or cough, eat or handle food. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.



More at: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Please continue to stay in contact with your friends and neighbours and check on their health and needs. If you are aware someone needs help or see a RED card in a window, please either offer assistance or call any Parish Councillor:

Karen Weir: 07735 205990

Timothy Birt: 01953 889208

Pete Bate: 01953 885204

Jeremy Woods: 01953 883953

David Welsted: 07443 538969

If your situation is medical or urgent phone 111 or 999

The Parish Council has accessed some emergency funding to help support those offering assistance to residents. For more details talk to a Councillor; any information disclosed will only be used for the purpose of coordinating village help.

If you would prefer to talk to someone outside the village the Parish Clerk is Heidi Frary: 01603 759215 (email: hefrary@googlemail.com)

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In Memory: Susan Mortimer

Village

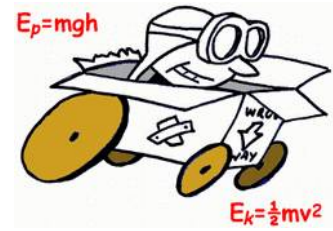
It is with great sadness that we have to report the passing of Susie Mortimer, after several months of illness, bravely borne. An Ovington resident of around 18 years, Susie will be greatly missed by her many friends.



Wacky Scrappy Gravity Race

Timothy Birt

As I expect you will have guessed the race is called off. While lock-down is easing, the repeated advice from Government advisors is that 'social distancing' will be here for some time, maybe until next year.



We felt that it would be difficult and disruptive to ensure social distancing at our event. Even if it were possible, we suspect many people would choose not to attend because of the Government guidance and the restrictions would make it less fun.

Some images and short video is available from previous races at:

www.ovington.org.uk/wsgr

Village Hall

Christine Reilly

We were hoping to run the 'Decorate a Christmas Stocking' competition at the Wacky Races this August. For those of you who have already purchased (and decorated?) their entry, please hang on to it. We may be able to run the competition nearer to Christmas, or if not then, at some stage next year. I still have quite a few blank stockings at £3 each, if anyone else would like to join in the fun. Many people are using their enforced lockdown period as a chance to be creative.

While village hall costs have diminished because the hall is not being used, there are still certain unavoidable costs to be covered. Luckily, the weather has been kind and the solar panels are generating well. We have just received our annual recycling payment from Breckland which amounted to £343 for textiles and glass combined. Please keep up the good work with recycling unwanted clothes and all your glass bottles and jars. It all helps to keep the hall running! Also for those of you getting ahead for the festive season, I have a limited supply of village hall Christmas cards for sale at only £2.50 a pack. Well, I thought I would be first to use the 'C' word as we are all fed up with hearing the other one at the moment!

Smile at the mad world

Edited from a group email

Most are trying their best, but it's complicated, so let's indulge in the great national tradition of laughing at our position ...

- 4 year olds can go to school, but university students who have paid for the tuition they haven't had and the accommodation they aren't living in, can't go to university.
- A teacher can go to school with many 4 year olds that they are not related to, but can't see one 4 year old that they are related to.
- You can meet one person from another household for a chat or to sunbathe, but not two people so if you know two people from another household you have to pick your favourite. Hopefully, you're also their favourite person from your household or this could be awkward. But possibly you're not. But as you can't go closer than 2m to the one you choose anyway you wouldn't think having the other one sat next to them would matter – unless two people would restrict your eyeline too much and prevent you from being alert.
- You can work all day with your colleagues, but you can't sit in their garden for a chat after work.
- You can now do unlimited exercise when quite frankly just doing an hour a day feels like you are some kind of fitness guru. I can think of lots of things that I would like to be unlimited but exercise definitely isn't one of them.
- You can drive to other destinations, although which destinations is unclear.
- The buses are still running past your house, but you shouldn't get on one. We should just let empty buses drive around so bus drivers aren't doing nothing.
- It will soon be time to quarantine people coming into the country by air ... but not yet, it's too soon.
- Our youngest children go back to school first because ... they are notoriously good at not touching things they shouldn't, maintain personal space at all times and they never randomly lick you.

- We are somewhere between 3.5 and 4.5 on the new five point scale where 5 is all of the virus and 1 is none of the virus but 2,3 and 4 can be anything you'd like it to be really. Some of the virus? A bit of the virus? Too much of the virus?
- The slogan isn't stay at home any more, so we don't have to stay at home. Except we do. Unless we can't. In which case we should go out. But there will be fines for breaking the rules. So don't do that.

Don't forget ...

- Stay alert ... which Government Minister Robert Jenrick has explained actually means 'stay home' as much as possible. Obviously.
- Control the virus. Well, I can't even control my dogs and I can actually see them. Plus I know a bit about dogs and very little about controlling viruses.
- Save lives. Always preferable to not saving lives, I'd say, so I'll try my best with that one, although hopefully I don't need telling to do that. I know I'm bragging now but not NOT saving lives is something I do every day.

Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



The rainfall for April was eventually 22.5 mm or just under one inch, virtually all of which fell in the last 3 day's of the month.

So far this month (23rd) has turned out to be another dry month, with only 1mm recorded.

[Editor: as expected, the April solar output broke records and May looks very respectable too. Maybe it has something to do with the lack of aeroplane vapour tails seeding clouds?]

Messages

Home again

Rod Rumsby

Grace has at last been discharged from hospital after an extended stay. She wishes to thank all her friends and neighbours for their kind wishes, and is sorry that visiting is still not allowed due to the lock down requirements, but hopes to speak to you in person before long.

Games and Puzzle Exchange

The old phone box has some games and puzzles, please help yourself. Linda at Stone House Farm has jigsaws for loan, ring 07741477941 to arrange collection or delivery.

Parish Council (PC)

Timothy Birt

Next meetings:

The PC Annual Meeting is postponed until a later date.

Legal documents at: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Bonfires & Noise

Editor

For the most part, life in Ovington is continuing apace with more time being spent tending gardens and enjoying our surroundings while taking exercise. However, a few people have mentioned some annoyances, made all the more disturbing when we are locked down.

Please be considerate to neighbours, check the wind direction before lighting a fire and keep lawnmowers and other noise to appropriate times.

A message from Jean Rockett, Lay Minister



The one thing that I have been able to do, due to the country's lock-down, is to spend more time in my garden. I am now working on the roadside area, and have even been able to introduce a few more live plants, kindly donated by neighbours. I have found the odd end of a silk flower which used to frequent my garden. These were introduced some 4 or 5 years ago

to bring a bit of colour to the area. Due to my arthritis, the lack of time to grow plants from seeds, or even the time to buy from the shops, the wild plants took over.

I now have more time, due to the fact that I have retired for the second time in my life, although this time I was actually made redundant. To start with lock-down didn't affect me as badly as it may have affected you as I had been laid up since the end of November due to hip surgery.

I have met some of our villagers on the occasional walk with our family Dachshund and it was so nice to have time for a chat, despite her barking. I was warned that Dachshunds bark a lot, as this was one of the things that they were bred for as Badger Dogs; short legs and long bodies being the other requisite, but legs and bodies are the quiet end of our little 'sausage'. She was very pleased to see more of her furry kind, and did enjoy being made a fuss of.

I am looking forward to Monday coffee mornings at the village hall, and returning to teaching Badgers and Cadets at St. John Ambulance. Perhaps I may find a new hobby, which unfortunately won't be digging on an allotment as I don't think that my new hip, or my consultant, would appreciate it.

Now that I have time to do more I am so sorry that I am unable to personally visit you, due to social distancing which I am still trying to get my head around. I have this little voice nagging me to step back rather than stepping forward with a warm hand greeting.

I have no idea when our village church will be open again for services, but in the meantime be assured that I am praying for you each day. If you would like special prayers to be said, either for yourself, friends or family, or would just like to have a chat, then please give me a call. My mobile number is 07749 870405.

With love in Christ, Jean

And finally ...

Tim

Logic Puzzle:

Last month I asked you to use the digits **1, 1, 5, 8** once to write a maths sum where the answer equals **10**, using only the operators **+**, **-**, **×**, and **÷**

The key is dividing by a fraction, thus $\frac{8}{0.8} = 10$

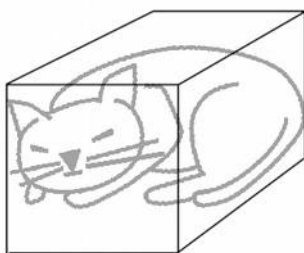
we can make 0.8 by taking a fifth from 1, so the final answer is:

$$\frac{8}{1 - \frac{1}{5}} = 10$$

A tricky problem, so give yourself an extra slice of cake if you got it.

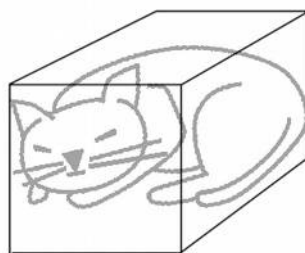
This problem is maybe a little easier, if you can navigate through the confusion (answer next month):

We need to check the health of Erwin Schrödinger's cat. In this weird world **only a third of these statements are true**, where is the cat?



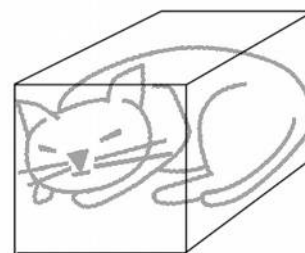
Box 1

The cat is in this box



Box 2

The cat is not in this box



Box 3

The cat is not in box 1

Deadline for next issue: 22 June

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