

The Ovington Oracle

July 2020

Thank you to everyone who has helped throughout this crisis, from shopping, fetching prescriptions or running errands, or just keeping an eye out for neighbours. It shows what village life should be about with an excellent community spirit. It is not over yet so stay vigilant, but we can enjoy a relaxation in the most severe restrictions.



The Parish Council have acquired a small supply of Active Norfolk exercise packs, which contain a booklet for simple exercises to do in a chair and living room including a DVD and a tension band. Please give Karen a call if you would like a pack 07735 205990

COVID-19 (Coronavirus Illness)

Lock-down has been eased, but we still need to maintain social distancing and extra hygiene. 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

If you have symptoms get a test, which can be requested at:

www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test

If your situation is medical or urgent do not delay phone 111 or 999

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Contact Tracing Scams

Tim

Unfortunately some criminals are exploiting the contact tracing system, as always be cautious of unsolicited calls.

Contact tracers will never:

- ask you to dial a premium rate number to speak to them (for example, those starting 09 or 087).
- ask you to make any form of payment or purchase a product of any kind.
- ask for any details about your bank account.
- ask for your social media identities or logins, or those of your contacts.
- ask you for any passwords or PINs, or ask you to set up any passwords or PINs over the phone.
- disclose any of your personal or medical information to your contacts.
- provide medical advice on the treatment of any potential coronavirus symptoms.
- ask you to download any software to your PC or ask you to hand over control of your PC, smartphone or tablet to anyone else
- ask you to access any website other than those belonging to government (.gov.uk) or NHS (.nhs.uk)

Lock-down Opportunities

Christine Reilly

One of the most productive opportunities of lock-down has been having the time to de-clutter some neglected areas of the house. Finding things that are so old you had forgotten why you kept them has been very therapeutic. Amongst items from my student days (yes, folks, we are talking the '70s here!) I found a treasured book, full of wisdom from ancient times – an Arabic reader. I kept it for the proverbs, which provide a fascinating insight into what was important to desert-dwellers many centuries ago, but also contain some universal truths, still applicable to all of us today. I would like to share a selection with you before parting with it.

Firstly, some general proverbs:

- Only a camel is great.
- To please people is an unattainable thing.
- If you are a liar, you need a good memory.
- A promise is a cloud, fulfilment is rain.
- Visit rarely and you will be more loved.
- When mouse and cat make peace, the greengrocer's shop is lost.

And, rather politically incorrect:

- Ugliness is the guardian of a woman.

Then there are some applicable to pupils missing school life at present:

- If one has no teacher, his teacher is the devil.
- A handful of luck is better than six ass-loads of learning.
- One who says "I don't know" and learns is better than one who knows and puffs himself up.

There are many, especially political, scenarios where it may be as well to remember this one:

- He left us and we rejoiced; then an even more unbearable person came.

Parish Council (PC)

Heidi Frary (Clerk) / Editor

A report derived from the unconfirmed minutes of a virtual PC meeting held 4:00pm 15 June, 2020.

Correspondence

Further concern received about speeding at the A1075 cross road. This will be raised at the police SNAP (Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel) meeting when it resumes.

Planning

Notification that the 6 self-build application in Church Road (3PL/2020/0086/O) was refused. TB had completed a 'call in' form, supported by HC (who sits on the planning committee), to request that this application be determined by the planning committee. TB reported that he should have been able to speak at the panel hearing, but was not sent the date, an agenda, nor an invitation to attend the virtual meeting. TB has logged a complaint.

Technical Papers

The PC agreed: the certificate of exemption, review of the asset register, Statement of Internal Control, Financial Regulations and received the internal auditors report. The PC also agreed the Annual Statement of Governance 2019/20 and Annual Accounting Statement 2019/20.

Councillors also adopted a Safeguarding Statement.

Precept Update and Accounts

Councillors reviewed and agreed payments (full details on website) and noted our stable financial position relative to that predicted in the precept calculation.

Other Matters

TB was reappointed as the PC representative on the Fuel Trust.

An electrical safety check has been arranged for the defibrillator, some work is recommended including repair of the kiosk light which will be completed soon.

The door of the old telephone box is in a poor state and the whole box has tired paint. Further investigation is required and will be reported back at a later meeting.

External Reports (meeting adjourned for public participation)

HC sent a written report prior to the meeting detailing Breckland Council's achievements and the launch of a 'Confidence In Breckland' campaign with some differences in the layout of Town high streets to allow for social distancing.

TB reported that following comments he made at the Breckland Cabinet meeting claiming that overall Breckland Council response had been mediocre and there had been zero scrutiny since February he had been notified that four formal complaints had been made against him and therefore he had referred himself to Standards.

Next meetings:

16 September and 18 November – subject to change.

Legal documents at: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Ladies Cycling

Jill Burgess

The very newly formed Ovington Ladies Cycling Club set forth on their first ever expedition on 27 May. Our mission to boldly go where no other Ovingtonian has been before, to explore new worlds and meet new people as they say in Star Trek and mostly have a nosey in other peoples gardens and windows! We ventured into unknown territory for some members to the bright lights of Griston, Thompson, Merton, and Saham Toney before our return back onto home ground.

Some members were disappointed that the two hostelryes en-route were closed so no coffee or other refreshments could be enjoyed, but never the less undaunted we peddled on over twelve miles safe in the knowledge that you can always rely on good old refreshments in Ovington.

I must report that at all times we were socially distanced at least 2 metres apart line astern much to the amusement of some residents in Thompson who asked why Sue our leader of the Peleton at the time hadn't got a yellow Jersey on!! I think I am safe in saying that we all enjoyed our outing and are looking forward to the next trip together.

Village Hall

Christine Reilly

If we are allowed to socially distance at only 1 metre, then the VH committee will be able to meet and discuss possibilities for reopening the hall, but it will be very limited.

Stay safe.

Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



In May we had a total of 1mm which in old money is 0.0394 inches.

This downpour caused consternation with the members of the Ovington flood relief and river drainage boards, as further inundations of a similar quantity could necessitate the filling of sandbags and major excavation of drainage ditches. Luckily we were spared, not having any more rain that month.

Up until 21 June we have had 75mm or near as makes no difference 3 inches, which was a great relief for the gardeners amongst us.

Residents Messages

Care Assistant

Beth Baker

Do you or a family member need help with personal care, meal preparation, housework, or companionship and transport for shopping trips or general outings? I am a fully insured carer with over a decade of care work experience. I'm local to Ovington but provide service for Watton and all of the surrounding villages. I currently have some weekday availability, so if you need a reliable and trustworthy carer then give me a call for further details. Beth, (01953) 529402. Please note that I can provide PPE in accordance to the current government guidelines regarding COVID-19.

A message from Jean Rockett, Lay Minister



I am so pleased to be able to inform you that Revd. Jane Atkins has made the decision to open the 4 churches in our benefice, these being Ashill, Carbrooke, Ovington and Saham Toney, on one day of the week. This will be for private prayer only. No formal services will be held until the decision to do so by the Bishops has been made.

Our church in Ovington will therefore be opening for private prayer on **Sunday, 5 July** from **10:00am until 12 noon** then every following Sunday at the same time. Social distancing will need to be observed and therefore only some of the pews will be available. There will be no restriction of how long you would like to stay during this time, and of course the usual hand sanitising facilities will be made available to you on entering and leaving the church.

Arrangements are being made to deep clean the church before opening its door to you all. Notices will be displayed reminding us of social distancing. Due to the narrower aisle of our church you are asked to allow others to pass before exiting. I am not expecting there to be a mad rush to enter our lovely building during this time, but we never know how the moment will take us.

Unfortunately we will not be able to offer any refreshment facilities, just a quiet time to be with our Lord, remembering perhaps those we may have lost, or giving thanks for those we still have.

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.

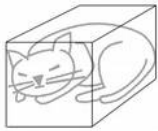
With love in Christ, Jean

And finally ...

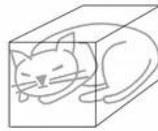
Tim

Logic Puzzle Answer:

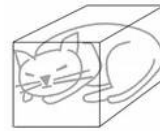
Last month I asked you find the cat in a problem made confusing because two statements are negatively constructed and crucially, two statements are false, the key is to identify the only valid scenario.



Box 1



Box 2



Box 3

The cat is in this box The cat is not in this box The cat is not in box 1

Consider if the cat is in box one: then statements 1 AND 2 are true which is not allowed so the cat is NOT in box 1.

Now consider if the cat is in box two: statement 2 is false and statement 3 is true (we already confirmed statement 1 is false). We have found the cat alive and well!

For completeness, consider if the cat is in box three: statements 2 AND 3 are then true, so this is again invalid.

Daft bits from Rod:

- >> When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
- >> I finally got eight hours sleep, it took me three days but I did it.



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