

The Ovington Oracle

October 2020

Fall, leaves, fall

Emily Brontë

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
Lengthen night and shorten day;
Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.
I shall smile when wreaths of snow
Blossom where the rose should grow;
I shall sing when night's decay
Ushers in a drearier day.

COVID-19 (Coronavirus Illness)

After a summer respite the predicted 'second wave' of COVID-19 is upon some parts of the country. For a while Breckland was on enhanced 'watch-list' following an outbreak at Banham Poultry, but it was contained and we are no longer on the list.



Norfolk infection rates are relatively low, but it looks as if it will be some considerable time before we return to pre-COVID activities. The Prime Minister announced the latest measures would probably stay in place for the next six months, these include:

- People should work from home wherever possible.
- Pubs, bars and restaurants to close at 10:00pm and must operate table service only.
- Customers and staff in hospitality venues must wear face coverings, except when seated at a table to eat or drink.
- Customers in private hire vehicles and taxis must wear face coverings.
- Limit on guests at weddings reduced from 30 to 15.
- "Rule of six" now applies to indoor team sports.
- Fines for not following rules now £200 for a first offence.
- Plans to allow spectators to return to sporting events paused.

See ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home for local COVID-19 information

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Web links

COVID-19: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Village Information: ovington-village.org.uk

Parish Council: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Oracle back copies: ovington.org.uk/oracle

Ovington Cycling Group

Dave Welstead

Ten intrepid Ovington cyclists set off on a “private” fund raising expedition to raise money for St John’s Church during September. Taking their cue from the annual Norfolk Churches Trust Cycle Ride they adjusted a few of their normal cycle routes so as to include churches at Griston, Caston, Stow Bedon, Rocklands and finally Ovington. As several members had prior engagements later that day the cycle trip had to be capped to just a few hours.

Normally our routes are chosen to avoid roads with lots of traffic; on this route we did achieve that in the main but with the exception of some fast traffic on the Rocklands to Attleborough road, happily everybody stayed safe!! The weather was good for us; sunny but with a fresh breeze, and the scenery was very Norfolk with open fields, stunning blue skies and “fluffy” white clouds.

Our highly technical equipment measured the route at just under 20 miles which we all felt was a good distance given the short time of just a few hours. Sponsorship for our ride raised £70 for St John’s the Evangelist Church, Ovington.

End of Summer Time



The clocks go back at 2:00am Sunday 25 October, we gain an extra hour of sleep – unless you wait up for the excitement of watching time travel in reverse.

Parish Council (PC)

Heidi Frary (Clerk)

A report from the unconfirmed minutes of the 16 September meeting held via Zoom.

Councillors: Karen Weir (Chair) (KW), Tim Birt (TB), Dave Welsted (DW), Jeremy Woods (JW) and Pete Bate (PB) sends apologies.

Matters Arising

TB to speak to Chris Lewis about possible solution to stabilise erosion of the allotment entrance.

Correspondence

NCC parish partnership scheme is available again. [this is the scheme which helped pay for the trods]. No initial suggestions, but to be added to next agenda.

A proposed diversion of footpath 1 at Water End Farm was distributed before the meeting. Councillors noted that *The Ramblers* were not intending to dispute the change. The PC supports the diversion.

Planning

No new applications.

A replacement car port and art studio at *The Old Cart House* is approved. (3PL/2020/0686/HOU).

Accounts

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

COVID-19 issues

A message from the Norfolk Community Foundation asking the PC to consider returning any unused funds. It was agreed that as there is the significant likelihood of a second wave with possibly less support from Central Government, we will retain the ring-fenced funds. There was discussion around the use of funds for cases of hardship in the village resulting from the need to self isolate.

The General Power of Competence was adopted for a period of 12 months. This allows the PC greater flexibility to deal with any local issues which may arise from the pandemic.

Village issues

The hedge adjacent to the village sign needs cutting back; KW to action.

Posts of the 30mph signs in The Street are severely corroded; Clerk to report to Highways.

A couple of the new trees in Crown Crescent may not have survived the dry weather. JW and TB to review and report back.

Adjournment for public participation

The ditches are full of debris and need clearing; Clerk to contact landowners.

There have been further instances of fly-tipping; TB to forward Breckland Council reporting link to resident. TB said fly-tip reporting and clear up has much improved but he would follow up in a few days to make sure it had worked smoothly.

District Cllr Crane updated PC about the implications of the new Government Planning Consultation which is of significant concern to local villages due to increased housing requirements and reduction of affordable housing.

Next meetings:

18 November, 7:30pm, via Zoom.

Legal documents at: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



August turned out to be rather wet with the totals for the month being 109mm or 4.3".

This month, at least until 20 September, is in complete contrast as we only have had 9mm or 0.35" of rain so far.

Church News

Jean Rockett, Lay Minister



The year 2020 has been a strange one so far. Well what a mixture of weather we had in August, with thunderstorms, flooding, gale-force winds and very hot sunny days. I am hoping for more settled weather so that I can get my garden sorted for the winter. Yes it will be upon us before we know it.

My previous messages since the start of the pandemic have been pretty much the same, so I thought that I would make this one a bit brighter with a little poem. Here goes:

*Were you around in the 50's when folks chatted over the garden fence?
It was a time of endless summers, bread and milk just cost pence.
Though Covid-19 brought heartache, self-isolation for both young and old
It also brought back less crowded shops, and fewer cars on the road.*

*Our church services were put on hold and buildings remained closed.
But thankfully that's behind us now. I'm really no good with this prose!
Covid-19 may come back like a roaring lion, or be meek and mild like a lamb.
Life has a way of rebuilding itself, all part of natures plan.*

*Well what can I say?
We just have to live for today.
And to the Lord on our knees we can say
Please Lord, keep Coronavirus away.*

My prayers for each one of you continue daily. My mobile phone number is 07749 870485. Please give me a call if you would like a chat, or prayers said for someone special in your life.

With love in Christ

Jean

Messages

Rod Rumsby

The current custodian of the Village mower is having to find more storage space for his own personal belongings. Therefore he is looking for some kind person to take on responsibility for storing and maintaining this fine machine. It was funded some time back by donations from several organisations and generous individuals for use by anyone in the Village who needed to cut their grass, and has since done fine service in this role. It has just had a full service and is in good working order. Any offers please to any members of the Parish Council.

Grace Rumsby

FOR SALE

I have 5 Big 500 puzzles for sale @ £1.50 each or £7 for the five
The money will go to a good local cause.

Timothy Birt

Reporting of fly-tipping in Breckland is improved with an interactive map to help pin point the problem, visit the page below and click the 'REPORT A FLY-TIP ONLINE' button:

www.breckland.gov.uk/flytip

And finally ...

Rod

Daft bits from Rod's alter ego, in best Norfolk dialect:

An old farmer told one of his farm boys to go and borrow a crosscut saw – his mangolds were so big he couldn't lift them into the cart.



The boy went to the next farm and said:

"Please sir my marsta want tew burrer yar crosscut, his mangolds are so big he can't lift them inter tha cart"

"Well Bor" replied the neighbour, "Dew yew tell yar marsta I'm sorry but my crosscut is stuck in one of my taters.

Did you
know ?

Answer to my query last month, Does anyone know what a "Mawkin" is? This the Norfolk name for a scarecrow, but you all knew that didn't you?

Well try this un then ... what is a Caddow? I'll try and find out in time for next months magnificent tome of the Oracle, compiled with great skill by our Oracle editorial team. Good luck.

[*Editor: what's this 'great skill' malarkey? Are you buttering-me-up for something? PS: A mangold is a root vegetable, which I didn't know, so I'd no idea what your alter ego was on about.]*

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