

The Ovington Oracle

November 2020

The Oracle is very short this month as both Linda and I recover from COVID-19. Linda returned home last week after 9 days in hospital. We thank the village for all the generous offers of help and support we have received.

I have waited until well beyond the isolation period before printing the Oracle as well as 'sanitising' to be doubly sure there is no contamination risk.



With *Bonfire Night* events imminent, please remember animals and pets, be considerate with smoke and noise, have fun and stay safe.



COVID-19 (Coronavirus Illness)

Norfolk still remains low in terms of the overall infection rate however cases are rising and unfortunately there has been a significant outbreak at Cranswick Country Foods in Watton, with at least 144 positive cases.



While there is no specific advise to nearby residents, it may be sensible to temporally limit local contacts while the outbreak is being contained.



Wash hands

keep washing your hands regularly



Cover face

wear a face covering in enclosed spaces



Make space

stay at least 2 metres apart – or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions

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Welcome

Village

We welcome Terry Gommersall and Ray Shinn to The Street. It is a strange time, but we hope in due course to meet you at some of our village events.

Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



Rainfall figures for September. The first half of the month, if you recall, was very dry, the second half made up for that when 120mm fell in 8 days, in old money that is 4.72". The total for the month was 129mm or just over 5".

So far this month (20 October), we have totalled 43 mm or 1.7".

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

Parish Council (PC)

Heidi Frary (Clerk)

Next meetings:

18 November, 7:30pm, via Zoom.

Legal documents at: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Village Hall

Christine Reilly

As there are quite a few people new to Ovington, I thought I would take the opportunity this month to write a bit about the village hall. The building dates from 1840 and was originally a private school. It closed as the village school in 1933 and in 1953 the Church gifted it to the village. As a registered charity since 1995, the Management Committee of Trustees look after and run the hall for the benefit of the village and local community. It is the oldest village hall in Norfolk!

Alas, this year has probably been one of the bleakest in the hall's long history. We had no sooner planned a full and varied programme of events to amuse, entertain and feed you, when we were forced into lockdown! However, we are all keeping our fingers firmly crossed that normal service can be resumed next year. In the meantime, there are still ways in which you can take an active part in keeping your village hall going. By remembering to put your glass bottles and jars in the bottle bank (instead of your grey bin) and donating unwanted clothes, shoes, belts and handbags to the textile bank, the hall will receive recycling credit from Breckland. This usually amounts to around £350 a year. Also, if you purchase your heating oil from Rix Petroleum as part of the village scheme, they give the village hall a donation once a year which is another valuable source of income.

Finally, we still have packs of charity Christmas cards in 2 designs – ten card per pack at only £2.50, all of which goes directly to the village hall. Please give me a ring on 01953 885848 if you would like to see the designs or purchase some.

And finally ...

Rod

Did you
know ?

Last month I asked if you knew what a Caddow is, well it's a Norfolk name for a Jackdaw. I have another name for Jackdaws and that is an infestation, my garden seems to attract a flock of these birds who daily consume everything from the bird feeders and bird table before any of the few remaining smaller species get a look in.

The Editor confesses he doesn't know much about Mangold Wurzels, to give them their full name. Well we all know they are a root crop that was grown in large quantities for cattle feed, they were grown and harvested much like sugar beet. Which included all the usual tasks like chopping out, lifting, knocking and topping, but unlike sugar beet they were haled up and stored to feed the stock throughout the winter until grazing could restart. Their nutritional value to the cows was debatable as they were 90% water, but they bulked up the feed which was in the main, meal, or in latter times sugar beet pulp. One job us young boys had was to chop the Mangold roots into small chunks by turning the handle of the Mangold grinder, hard going if you had a large herd to feed.

There was always stiff competition between farmers to see who could grow the best crop with biggest roots, a farmer from Ovington was one of the first in this area to use artificial fertiliser, and he boasted his crop was over 50% better using this fertilizer.

Deadline for next issue: 22 November

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