

The Ovington Oracle

December 2020



Season's Greetings

It feels as if we are leading up to a very different Christmas this year as we are asked to limit the number of our social connections, but the news looks brighter as we move into Spring.

Maybe it's time to take advantage of a slightly quieter Christmas and start some new 'traditions'. Why not share your new ideas by writing a brief piece for the Oracle?

As we move into December many are putting up outside lights and Christmas decorations which we can all enjoy as we walk through the village.

Enjoy and stay safe.

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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

COVID-19 (Coronavirus Illness)

Editor

As I write this, it isn't clear how things will change on 2 December as we come out of full lock-down, but it seems clear that significant restrictions will be in place for some time, probably into the spring. It is certainly going to be a different Christmas.



Up to date information is available at: www.gov.uk/coronavirus



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

If you have any coronavirus symptoms:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

get a free test, phone 119 or see www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

Parish Council (PC)

Heidi Frary (Clerk)

A report from the unconfirmed minutes of the 18 November meeting held via Zoom.

Councillors: Tim Birt (TB – chairing), Dave Welsted (DW), Jeremy Woods (JW) and Karen Weir sends apologies.

Meeting suspended at 7.35pm to allow Re-Evolution make a presentation.

Representatives of Re-Evolution explained that they are a group of six families working together to develop community and sustainable projects. They have taken responsibility for some land in Ovington behind Dairy Farm to form a carbon neutral market garden. Activities include regenerative farming, food security and water management.

It is hoped that planning will be submitted to create structures for a community space and hub including temporary housing for those workers, a forest school and yoga retreats. So far an entry road and gate have been installed. It is hoped that eventually it will become a national scheme and will reduce food miles across the country.

There were questions and it was noted that there are no fixed plans as yet, however Breckland are being engaged at all stages in the process.

Meeting resumed at 7:45pm

Matters Arising

Allotment Entrance. TB reported that he has contacted the Allotment Association and evaluation work is underway however due to lockdown restrictions and the weather it has been delayed.

Use of COVID-19 grant for hardship fund. TB reported that whilst the grant cannot be used for individuals, there is the opportunity to provide community support.

Correspondence

NCC: Parish Partnerships Scheme. A resident has requested the extension of the trod, however there are not sufficient resources for this to be considered for this financial year. It will be considered for a future round of bidding.

Planning

3PL/2020/0086/O: Land at Church Farm: erection of 6 self-build residential dwellings (APPEAL). It was agreed that the existing comments still stand and no further submission is necessary.

3PL/2020/1142/F: Ruxley House, Carbrooke Road – change of use from garage to ancillary living accommodation (retrospective). It was felt acceptable as long as it is energy efficient and a restriction is included that the ancillary living accommodation be only used in conjunction to the main dwelling, not as a separate rented dwelling.

Accounts & Administration

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

Updates to the *Sickness Management Policy*, *Tree Management Policy* and *Filming at Council Meetings Policy* documents were approved.

Village issues

TB reported that the request for ditches to be cleared has resulted in much work being undertaken and the basic flooding that has been seen in the past has been resolved. Cross drainage is still a potential issue and will be reviewed after the next heavy rain.

TB has reported a dead animal and fly-tip to Breckland Council, they resolved the matter within 24 hours.

The rusted Give Way sign in the Parish should be repaired in the next few weeks.

Adjournment for public participation

County Council

- CC Bowes reported that council officers have met with the Cranswick Incident Management Team and positive results are low. An Avian Flu protection is now present in the UK and whilst there are no cases in Norfolk, there are strict regulations in place to avoid any spread.

District Council

- DC Crane reported that Breckland Council has received the RSPA Award for the fifth year in a row an award for its outstanding work with animal welfare, particularly in the area of stray dogs. The Council has recruited an Animal Welfare officer, which is a new role at the Council.

The officer will be employed to carry out visits and inspections at licensed premises.

- Any resident who is isolating can contact the council for help, isolation grants are available and Breckland Council will be processing these.
- A £6 million support package has been launched to help the district's businesses through lockdown. Claims can be made through the Council website.
- The Council response for the second planning white paper has been returned.
- The Council is no longer using the district valuer. A private company that does work only for councils is going to do valuations for planning purposes. She hopes this will give much more confidence to residents regarding valuations that are done when S106 obligations are removed or affordable housing requirements lowered.

Next meetings:

20 January, 7:30pm, via Zoom.

Legal documents at: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



October turned out to be a very wet month with 106mm or just over 4" in old money.

This month, at least until 21 November, totals are 38mm or 1.5".

To: Ovington Village Cycle Group

Jean Rockett

From Ovington Parish Church

A massive **Thank You** for your wonderful effort to raise £70 for the church funds. I would love to join you all in your next venture, but would need a tricycle, as my balance is not perfect, and I do not want to go through another hip replacement operation through falling off a 2-wheeler!!!



I apologise for missing last month's Oracle edition, but I thought incorrectly that as Tim and his family were unwell the Oracle would go out late. How wrong I was! And thank you to all who deliver copies around the village.

I know that there are many of you in our village who donate money each month to keep the church running, especially when it comes to heating and lighting, and for that I thank you. Of course attending Sunday services is not obligatory, although I love to see you there as I only meet a few of you on my noisy dog walking trips.

Take Care and Stay Safe.

Jean

Obituary: Steve Horton

Christine Reilly

It is with great sadness that we learned that Steve Horton had lost his battle against cancer on 2 November. Although only a resident in Ovington for 3 years, Steve had made a considerable impact on the village from the beginning.

Originally from Essex, Steve brought us his practical talents as a Master Carpenter & Joiner, evidenced by the transformation of the village hall internal cladding. His talents were considerable: he made amazing model boats and trucks as a hobby. Steve worked for a while as caretaker at the infant school in Watton where he also volunteered as Father Christmas, reading stories to every class in the school! The pupils loved him as he had a special empathy with children and a great sense of fun. He brought this fun to village hall and allotment events, devising games and entertainment to bring everyone together. Only Steve could persuade people out of their seats to join in with fun and games. His priority was always to ensure others had a good time. Even during his illness, Steve was still mowing the Village Hall and Church grass.



He will be greatly missed by the village hall committee, on the allotments and throughout the village. When current restrictions are lifted, there will be a large celebration at the village hall of his life. In the meantime, our thoughts and condolences are with Sue and the family.

The funeral (restricted to family only) will take place on Thursday 26 November at 12 noon – the procession will begin from the village hall at 11.35 – but will be webcast live for those unable to attend.

The details are: www.obitus.com

User name: Zosa0295 Password: 935654

After a few days to reset, it will be available to view for 28 days. Anyone wishing to donate in Steve's memory can do so via Eirlys Johnson Funeral Services, 87 High Street, Watton IP25 6AW. Cheques should be to "Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital" and will be designated to the Acute Oncology Service (AOS).

Church News

Jean Rockett, Lay Minister



Christmas celebration time.

Unfortunately, with the Coronavirus precautions still being observed we will not be able to have our Church Carol Service this year. We will, however, be able to meet for an informal gathering to listen to Bible readings covering the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ

and listen to some pre-recorded carols. This will be held on Sunday 20 December at 6:00pm. The service will be short, lasting for approximately half an hour. I am sorry to have to tell you that places will have to be limited to two persons every other pew, unless a family of 4 are sitting together, and a maximum of 30 persons in total. Face masks will need to be worn and the use of hand sanitising gel will be available. If changes are made to these arrangements I will ask Tim to put a notice on the Village notice boards.

Church Open

Our Church of St John the Evangelist is now open every day from 9:00am to 4:00pm for private prayer. As at the time of writing this there are no Sunday services. However I will be in the church on Sunday mornings between 10:00am and 11:30am if you would like to speak to me.

Did you hear the church bell ringing at 10:55am on Sunday 8th November. Chris Lewis very kindly rang the bell for 5 minutes before a two minutes silence was acknowledged, then he rang again until 11:05am. This was done to mark the lives of those young people who gave their lives in war so that we all may be free.

2020 has been a strange one and difficult for some to cope with, especially those who had to self-isolate and were living on their own. I pray that 2021 will be a better one for all.

My prayers for each one of you continue daily.

With love in Christ

Jean

Tel: 07749 870485

Village Hall

Christine Reilly

The Village Hall remains closed during the pandemic, but we are looking forward to 2021 and the reopening.

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.

Messages

Editor

Errors

Last month I'm sorry that a few typos slipped through as circumstances meant I didn't get the Oracle to Christine for proof reading prior to printing. This month we are back to normal.

Avian Flu

There are confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N8 in poultry and captive birds in the UK.

Bird flu is a notifiable animal disease. If you suspect any type of bird flu in poultry or captive birds you must report it immediately by calling the Defra Rural Services Helpline on 03000 200 301.

If you keep poultry, whether commercially, or as pets in your garden, you should keep a close watch on them for signs of disease and maintain good biosecurity at all times.

Flocks of 50 or more must be registered, keepers of smaller flocks are strongly encouraged to register in order to keep updated with regulations and requirements which also apply to garden birds.

More at: www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu

And finally ...

Rod

- >> When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask. "Why, what did you hear?"
- >> When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.
- >> To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it !



Deadline for next issue: 21 December

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