

The Ovington Oracle

January 2021



Happy New Year

A few facts and historical events related to January.

In ancient Roman times Janus is the god of transitions, beginnings and endings, he is usually shown as having two faces looking to the future as well as the past. The month of January is commonly thought to be derived from Janus.

Local Norfolk hero Lord Nelson was buried at St Paul's cathedral in 9 January 1806.

Of interest, Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of Kings on 3 January 1924. Do we have any intrepid explorers in Ovington?

On 27 January 1926, John Logie Baird demonstrated his new television machine, it was suggested that this might one day provide every home with a substitute for the cinema ... a very useful invention over the last few months!

Keep well, stay safe.

Local COVID-19 information: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

National 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

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COVID-19 (Coronavirus Illness)

Editor

With the new variant of the virus widespread we are now in tier 4 of COVID-19 restrictions. The overarching instruction is “stay at home”, this is required by law unless you have a ‘reasonable excuse’ as defined in the guidance.



Detailed information is available at:

www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-4-stay-at-home

Your Parish Councillors will try to help with any queries or problems:

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



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

Interesting Characters in our Churchyard

Chris Lewis

Edwin Little

While doing some much-needed maintenance in the churchyard I came across a rather splendid memorial to Engineer Rear Admiral Edwin Little. What was an admiral doing so far from the sea and what is an “Engineer” Rear Admiral anyway? Delving into his family history revealed that he also had a son who became an Engineer Rear Admiral (not to be confused with an ERA which is quite different). Apparently when ships began to be fitted with engines and gun turrets there was a need for the Royal Navy to employ engineers who could understand them. These were first termed “Inspectors of Machinery” and suchlike but were later given ranks similar to the executive branch. Edwin had a long career serving on several capital ships as well as shore stations. He was born the son of a dockyard rigger, married Bessie Barling and had a son Henry Augustus and a daughter Edith Madeline. Edith married a physician and surgeon Thomas Gibson and they were living in Shipdham in 1911. Edwin and Bessie were staying in their home on the night of the Census. Bessie died in 1911 and, in 1914, Edwin now age 63 married Veronica Agnes Roscoe age 25 daughter of the Rector of Ovington the Rev John Roscoe. They had a daughter Veronica Agnes Little in 1916 shortly before Edwin died in 1917. She was christened in Ovington the next year although they were not living here at the time.

Rev John Roscoe

The Rev John Roscoe is also an interesting character. He studied civil engineering before joining the Anglican Church Missionary Society. In 1884, on mission, he travelled to what became the Uganda Protectorate, and lived there among several African tribes until 1909. Veronica was born in Bulawayo. He wrote several books about the African tribes on the strength of which he was granted an honorary MA and the living of the Ovington rectory by the University of Cambridge later becoming an Honorary Canon of Norwich. He and his wife Agnes Kate are buried in our churchyard.

Henry Ernest Augustus Little

Another Norfolk connection is Edwin’s brother, Henry Little who became a boat builder and had a yard in Brundall. He later teamed up with Frank Chambers, yacht designer and headmaster of Charterhouse school to form the Norfolk Broads Yachting Company and went on to build a series of highly successful racing yachts.

Wedding Announcement

Jeremy Woods and Jean Rockett

The engagement is announced between Jeremy Woods and Jean Rockett who plan to be married on Saturday 6 March, subject to shutdown regulations and the current "Tier" position.

The wedding is planned to take place in our Church. This currently means that only 6 people can attend! If things change the number of attendees would increase to 15.

However, it is hoped that regulations will allow a larger number to attend a Summer celebration (after the Hay harvest) and more information will be given about this!

Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



November: 51mm or just a fraction over 2".

December so far (21-12-2020, approximate figures as it's been raining all day and is still coming down, with more forecast), 62.5mm or 2.5" 3mm of this was snow, wet snow.

Parish Council (PC)

Heidi Frary (Clerk)

Next meeting:

20 January, 7:30pm, via Zoom.

Legal documents at: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Steve Horton

Sue Horton

Words cannot express how grateful I am for the friendship and support of my village friends.

During his illness Steve tried to live as full a life as possible. We managed to achieve a bucket list aspiration, of treating his 'besties' to a weekend away. He passed away a couple of days later exactly as he wanted, at home without pain, surrounded by the people he loved.

Thank you so much for donations in his memory. He would have been extremely proud. I took cheques totalling an amazing £1,205 to the Acute Oncology team at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital. They made him feel safe and gave him exemplary care. He was a big personality and despite his health issues, made them laugh. They practically became mates, always looking out for him.

He always wanted to be remembered for what he achieved and there's no doubt of that. He was 'one in a million'

Thanks again of behalf of me and the family,

Sue

Messages

Grace and Rod Rumsby

Message to all our good friends in Ovington. Grace and Rod thank all those lovely folk who have sent or given us Christmas cards this year, they make a really festive display. In line with other years we usually make a donation to a deserving charity instead of sending cards. We thank you all too for the support, shopping, gifts, flowers, enquiries and messages offering comfort, whilst Grace has been somewhat under the weather over the past eleven months, your kindness has been greatly appreciated and in a lot of cases quite cheering. Thank you all.

The editor has informed me that this issue may not appear until after the, sadly curtailed, festivities this year, therefore we trust you all had a wonderful time despite the restrictions, and wish you all a better outlook in 2021. Stay healthy and thank you again.

Church News

Jean Rockett, Lay Minister



Wishing you a very Happy New Year.

For all who were unable to get to our church service on Sunday 20 December, unfortunately you missed a wonderful Christmas celebration which featured Ovington's men's choral group, namely Quality Corner, who gave renditions of Gaudete, The Holly and the Ivy, and

Silent Night. Steve was sadly missed but Sue joined us and the performance was given in memory of former times.

We were able to have a Christmas Day service, which was from 10:30am to 11:00am and we loved to see all who could make it.

Unfortunately, with the Coronavirus precautions still being observed, and being at Tier 4, we will not be able to have our usual Sunday Church services until further notice. Tim is very kindly updating notices on the Village notice boards and Jeremy and I will put notices around the village to keep you all advised.

Our Church of St John the Evangelist will continue to be open every day from 9:00am to 4:00pm for private prayer.

2020 has been a strange year and difficult for some to cope with, especially those who have had to self-isolate, particularly those living on their own.

My prayers for each one of you continue daily.

With love in Christ

Jean

Tel: 07749 870485

And finally ...

Rod + Tim

- >> Never in my whole life would I imagine my hands would consume more alcohol than my mouth.
- >> Just spent 15 minutes looking for my phone in the car using my phone as a flash light !!
- >> Two mice talking:
One asks the other if he is going to get vaccinated? The other replies don't be crazy, they haven't finished the human trials yet.
- >> Why did the chicken cross the road? Because the chicken behind it didn't know how to socially distance properly.
- >> Following years of wanting to thoroughly clean my house but lacking the time, I discovered this week that wasn't the reason.



Deadline for next issue: 22 January

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