

The Ovington Oracle

March 2021

Spring is close!



For those who prefer a metrological definition spring starts on 1 March. Others prefer astronomical units and the equinox marks the start of spring on 20 March, at 9:37 to be precise!



The clocks change on Sunday 28 March, being spring the clocks 'spring' forward an hour thus giving us lighter evenings.

On Saturday 27 March at 8:30pm is 'Earth Hour', an event organised by WWF. Many people switch off artificial lighting for an hour as a symbol of commitment to our planet's loss of bio-diversity and climate change. For more details see:

www.earthhour.org

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

Following an extraordinary vaccine roll out, the roadmap to unlocking the country has been published.

The Prime Minister said it will be “data not date” driven, although a lot of dates have also been mentioned.

A technical document is available at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021



Infection rates are still high, COVID hospital occupancy is still high so the status remains ‘lockdown stay at home’, this is a legal requirement:

www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home

However, from 8 March, children will return to school and very limited additional outdoor association will be permitted.

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

Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Helen Clarke



11 March marks a special day for two long standing members of our village, Grace and Rod Rumsby celebrate their sixtieth wedding anniversary.

Congratulations from family and friends.

Messages – Local freecycling

Lyn Stillwell

Furniture available (surplus to requirements) Free to collector.

- Traditional upright piano, all keys work, but would benefit from tuning. Suit learner or intermediate.
- 2 dusky pink armchairs. One with padded back and arm cushions, one narrower more traditional style.
- Various 90's bookcases and two 33" high x 24" wide x 16" deep cabinets, some real wood (?teak) which could be repurposed.

Also lawnmowers, for spares? (Not used for several years)

- Mountfield RM55 petrol mower
- Flymo Lawnchief RE400 electric mower

Contact: Lyn – 01953 886724 (The Street)

Jeremy Woods

For Ovington Ladies only.

Ladies Philips bicycle. Has new wheel rims and tyres. Three speed Sturmey Archer gears. Horn. New saddle.

Available free: on condition that if you do not want to keep it, you give it to another Ovington Lady!

Contact Jeremy – 01953883953 (The Old Crown, The Street)

Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



Rain total for January 2021 was 105mm or 4.13"
1.5 mm of which was snow.

Thus far, 18 February, we have had 58.5mm or 2.3"
of which 11mm or 0.43" was snow.

*[Editor: Amazing how relatively so little rain
produces so much depth of snow.]*

Parish Council (PC)

Heidi Frary (Clerk)

Next meeting:

17 March, 7:30pm via Zoom.

Legal documents at: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Interesting Characters in our Churchyard

Chris Lewis

An Ovington Coal Miner

As I have been entertaining myself cataloguing the graves in our churchyard on findagrave.com I have looked into the lives of some of the families who have lived here before us, starting with the Cranes. The majority in the 19th century worked on the land, either as Farmers (employers) or Farm Workers (employed, usually on a casual basis, such as the Cranes). Everyone in the family would turn a hand to whatever job needed doing although some were more specialised such as Shepherds, Horse men or Bailiffs. Older girls would often work as servants in farmers' households. So the larger the family the greater the income. A small tied cottage was often provided, but with seven children as in the case of the Cranes and many others it was cramped.

As farm work declined mid century some of the Cranes moved to Yorkshire to work in the mines. Although the Acts of 1842 and 1850 forbade women and small children from working underground, six of the male members worked in the mines from the age of eleven. One of the Flockton collieries, Caphouse, was owned by Emma Lister-Kaye and as their fifth son was named Lister this is probably where they worked. It is now the National Mining Museum. It had a relatively deep 36 inch coal seam so the tunnels along which the children pulled the Corves or waggons were that tall, better than many pits, while the men had to lie on their sides hewing coal from the face. The work of the women at home was not much better having to feed and keep clean all those dirty miners with just a coal fire to heat the water. But at least employment was more secure than back home and wages were better.

Church News

Jean Rockett, Lay Minister



I am pleased to be able to report that further restoration work to our lovely church here in Ovington has started. I was pleased to be able to have a look at the work that has started on the flooring under the choir-stalls and the area from where I lead our services. However, I was very upset as I looked down at the rotting

timbers and was very thankful that they had not given way during our Christmas carol service where Ovington's male choir, namely Quality Corner, were giving a wonderful performance.

Our church is due to be open again, for private prayer only, from the beginning of April. With the lock-down restrictions starting to ease with schools reopening, I sincerely hope that we will once again be able to meet for services in the near future.

Due to some good weather in February I have been able to fill my time with gardening projects. I started by cleaning the greenhouses in The Old Crown and have been able to brighten up the front garden with primulas, hoping of course that the frosts are over.

I was given some great gardening advice by Barry and am in the process of chitting early potatoes (Rocket variety of course!) which I plan to grow inside one of the greenhouses.

Virtual village coffee mornings continue each Monday morning on Zoom. Please join us for a non-religious chat over a cuppa and cake, or whatever else you have been baking.

As always, my prayers for each one of you continue daily.

With love in Christ

Jean

Tel: 07749 870485

And finally ...

Rod+Tim



- >> Don't irritate old people. The older they get, the less "Life in prison" is a deterrent.
- >> I really don't mind getting older, but my body is taking it badly.
- >> I thought getting old would take longer.
- >> Q: How do you know your grandma is old enough to retire?
A: When she stops lying about her age and starts bragging about it!
- >> Q: What's the worst part about retiring?
A: You never get a day off!

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