

The Ovington Oracle

April 2021



As we welcome spring our village has become a sea of daffodils!

April, did you know ...?

- Zebra crossings were introduced on 4 April, 1949 with flashing beacons added in 1953.
- In the nineteenth century, 19 April was known as “primrose day” to commemorate the death of Benjamin Disraeli in 1881
- Samuel Morse, who give his name to Morse-code, was born on 27 April 1791
- The earliest association between 1 April and pranks and foolishness is found in Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* written in 1392.
- April is named after the Latin verb “aperire” meaning ‘to open’, as we see with the opening of buds and flowers.

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 update

Editor

Full details are available at:

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

Summary:

Step 1 of the roadmap out of lockdown has begun. Maybe that is step 1b, because schools are already back as of 8 March.



Shielding ends on 31 March.

From 29 March, the 'stay at home' rule will end. Outdoor gatherings (including in private gardens) of either 6 people (the Rule of 6) or 2 households will be allowed.

People should continue to work from home where they can and minimise the number of journeys they make where possible, avoiding travel at the busiest times and routes. Travel abroad will continue to be prohibited, other than for a small number of permitted reasons. Holidays abroad will not be allowed.

Step 2 will occur not before 12 April with the opening of non-essential retail; personal care premises such as hairdressers and nail salons; and public buildings, including libraries and community centres. Indoor leisure facilities such as gyms will also reopen (but only for use by people on their own or in household groups); as will most outdoor attractions and settings including outdoor hospitality venues. There will be no curfew, although customers must order, eat and drink while seated ('table service').

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](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test), phone 119 or see www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

Welcome back

Village

Penny, a long standing member of *Ladies Group*, has moved to *The Street* and we are pleased to welcome her back to the village.

Local Elections

Editor

Local Elections will take place on 6 May to select your Norfolk County Councillor and Police and Crime Commissioner.

As nominations are still open details of all candidates will appear next month.

The election is taking place in the shadow of COVID-19 and there will be additional requirements at polling stations, for example please bring your own pencil! The count is likely to take much longer than usual due to social distancing requirements.

You could also apply for a postal vote at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote

Village Hall

Christine Reilly

When the village hall re-opens (hopefully by the summer, but who knows?) we will be looking for someone to take on cleaning duties. We need someone to work one or one-and-a-half hours a week on a flexible basis. Duties involve light cleaning throughout the building, including the toilets. Equipment and materials are provided and a risk assessment will be carried out prior to starting. Please ring Christine on 01953 885848 if you would be interested.

We would like to thank Jill Burgess, who is stepping down, for her hard work and dedication over the past few years in keeping the hall to such a high standard.

Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



Rain total for February 2021 was 189.5mm or 7.46", roughly half an inch was snow.

Thus far, 22 March, we have had 33mm or 1.3"

[Editor: I'll need my sunshine graphic soon!]

Messages

The Rumsby's

Thank you

Rod and Grace wish to thank all our lovely friends and neighbours for the many congratulations, cards, flowers and bottles, given to us on the occasion of our diamond wedding anniversary. Even Her Majesty got in on the act, we just hope she reads the Oracle.

So thank you and bless you one and all for making our day.

Rod and Grace

Bruce Smith

Verges

Sadly I have noticed, on our daily walks through our lovely village, more and more erosion of the grass verges by vehicles. Of course the increased use of online shopping during the last year of Covid-19 issues, has meant a large increase of couriers using the village to deliver their goods. However we have also noticed service vehicles, workman vehicles, etc also contributing to the issue. The grass verge by the village hall has been severely damaged in particular. I have already spoken to a couple of people with regard to repairing that verge, via a working party, when the time is right, probably after the workman have finished their work on the church, and who are currently using the village hall car park. Hopefully if we can all attend to the verges near our homes, with a little prep, and grass seed, we can retain our lovely village verges.

Bruce, *The Street*

Gardener's Delight

Barry Lambert



Early Potatoes Under Glass and Poly Tunnels

For the last 10 years I have grown early potatoes in a 12 x 8 greenhouse entirely devoted to this one crop.

If the Greenhouse or Poly Tunnel is empty in November-December it should be deeply dug and manure or compost dug in. One important point often overlooked is that under glass and Poly Tunnels no rain will have fallen on the soil and the site should

be well flooded, in such quantities that the underlying reserves, as well as the top few inches, are generously replenished. (Nothing is more important than this.)

Before planting a light dressing of "Blood, Fish and Bone" should be lightly worked in and I plant the tubers (**Maris Bard**) the last week of February most years. Even under glass frost can be a problem, so be ready with fleece or sheets of newspaper. Otherwise culture is the same as outdoor crops.

Swift and Rocket. Both these varieties are good under Poly Tunnels and can be ready in 60 days. Seed potatoes should be purchased as early as possible in January and set up in trays with the eye end uppermost. Very small shoots can be seen on the end of the potato. The aim being to get small green shoots, no longer than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, on the end of the potatoes before being planted carefully with a trowel.

Swift can be planted close together as it does not make too much top growth.

Rocket is both good under Glass and Poly-tunnels.

Church News

Jean Rockett, Lay Minister



Work on our lovely church here in Ovington is progressing slowly and I am hoping that it will be ready for our Easter services. Our first service will be on **Good Friday 2 April at 10:30am** followed by our Easter Service on **Sunday 4 April also at 10:30am.**

Following these two services I am hoping that we will be able to continue Sunday services and I look forward to seeing you there. It was unfortunate that last month I had two funeral services to lead which were not due to the Covid virus. I thank our Lord that we have been kept safe in our village from this dreadful virus, healing those who were unfortunate enough to contract it.

I have been able to progress with gardening at The Old Crown, bringing in a bit of colour in with primulas. These lovely little flowers can bloom again later this year before going to sleep for the winter. Work in the greenhouses has progressed slowly due to the gales last month that took out a few of the greenhouse windows. This was rather annoying as Jeremy had spent quite a few hours prior to the gales repairing previous damage.

I am due to have my second vaccine this month which I know that some of you have already had. My first vaccine was wonderful as it caused me to sleep very well over the course of three days! It was a wonderful time of rest and I am looking forward to the opportunity of repeating this experience. This time though I will probably just be able to 'get on' with my daily tasks.

Virtual village coffee mornings are continuing each Monday morning on Zoom. We are growing in numbers and looking forward to the time when we can join together again physically and share with each other our cakes, biscuits and sausage rolls. The first meetings will probably be held outside, weather permitting of course. 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

Parish Council (PC)

Heidi Frary (Clerk)

A report compiled from the unconfirmed minutes of the PC on 17 March, held by Zoom

Present and Apologies

Cllrs T Birt (TB), Karen Weir (KW), Cllr Dave Welsted (DW) and Jeremy Woods (JW). Apologies from Cllr Pete Bate. Also Present The Clerk and CC Bowes.

Matters Arising

Breckland Council have confirmed there were no preservation orders on the trees removed on Carbrooke Rd.

Correspondence

Request for funding to replace the defibrillator pads and battery. It was noted the battery was last replaced in 2019, less than expected lifespan.

The consultation to extend the 50mph speed limit on the A1075 along the entire route between Ovington and Shipdham was noted.

Planning

3PL/2021/0241/F: Chanticleer, Annex Dereham Road – change of use of annex building and land to separate dwelling house.

This was opposed by Councillors in consistency with previous comments about access to the main road. It was noted that the application contained errors and omissions and also that a nearby site has been confirmed as unsustainable by the planning inspectorate.

APP/F2605/W/20/3256786 Appeal refusal for Land at Church Farm, Church Road was noted.

Policy Documents

Document Retention Policy, GDPR Policy and Website Privacy Statement were all circulated before the meeting. A few minor tweaks were discussed and the documents approved.

Finance and Payments

An update on our precept position was received and payments were reviewed and approved.

DW declared an interest as a member of the Church PCC and retired to the Zoom waiting room.

The PCC requested a donation of £60 from the PC towards petrol costs for grass cutting church land. It was agreed that the Council would make a contribution of £50 to cover the community use area.

PC agreed to fund 50% of the replacement defibrillator battery cost, noted under correspondence.

Both grants will be drawn from the 2021-22 donations pot.

Village Issues

JW explained that the website is being updated in the next week or two and is hoped to include a community discussion forum. It was noted that this will not be a Parish Council venture.

The 30mph speed sign at the western end of The Street has rusted through at the base and been reported to Highways with photographs. Despite there being a rust hole in the post Highways stated that the signs are not at the level that require intervention. CC Bowes to take this forward.

Open Forum

Report from County Councillor Bowes, including:

A new Highways Engineer has been appointed for our area, Matthew Lines. Free School Meals vouchers will be offered through NCC for the Easter holiday. A survey on recycling is being undertaken, link:

www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/norfolk-recycling-centre-survey-2021

[Editor: be prepared for more questions about your age, gender, how much you work, etc than about the recycling centres themselves!]

Open Forum (continued)

Reports from District Councillors Crane and Birt, including:

Following the Silver Social targeted at older people a new project for young carers, "MyFuture".

Information on projects to help with "county lines" policing, prevention of domestic abuse, social isolation, loneliness and mental health.

£525k released to support the climate emergency strategy with a declared target to be zero carbon by 2035. There will be funding of £100k each for a Community Green Grant Scheme and Tree Planting & Rewilding Schemes which Ovington could tap into.

There have been multiple cases where S106 agreements (where community obligations are placed on developers) have been incorrectly worded or not enforced by Breckland Council, leading to £100k's of lost community funding. A review will heard over the summer at Overview and Scrutiny.

Next meeting:

Saturday 1 May, 5:00pm via Zoom. Including the Annual Parish Meeting)

Legal documents at: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Litter Pick

Tim



There is no formal village litter pick this year, but it is hoped many regulars will make a special effort in the first week of April to tidy our village. Some 'social bubbles' have already been spotted with their high viz vests on in the bottom of some of our ditches – isn't that right Lyndia and Chris?

Interesting Characters in our Churchyard

Chris Lewis

Ovington Gentry

Wandering around the churchyard you may come across an unremarkable grave close to the back of the church. It simply states “C J Evans Rector 1865 – 1883” . A modest brass plaque inside the church adds little more. This is surprising for a rector so well connected.

We first find Charles John Evans in 1861 in the household of Thomas Ormerod, who was Archdeacon of Suffolk, and Rector of Redenhall. His father, Charles Evans, was a barrister-at-law, and Chancellor for the Diocese of Norwich amongst several other offices. He unfortunately died in 1868 after falling from his horse. His maternal grandfather, George Morse, was a Norwich magistrate living at Catton Hall in 1841 with nine retainers.

The young Charles was a Fellow of King’s College Cambridge and employed as Coach to the six Ormerod children. He evidently did a good job as he married their eldest daughter, Elizabeth Mary in 1865 and was given the living of Ovington in that year, remaining there until his death at the early age of 51.

They had three children, Margaret, Alice and little Charles but only four servants. A bit of a come down from the eight in the Ormerod household. Alice is still living with her widowed mother in Kensington in 1911 (just three servants). Charles we find in 1881 in Barrett-Ringstead, Norfolk as a pupil, probably of Hamon Le Strange, a colleague of his father on the magistrates’ bench. We then lose sight of him but his sister, Margaret, apparently joins the Greyladies' College for Women Workers, a sort of posh people’s convent for those who wish to do good works but still maintain a comfortable lifestyle. The 1901 census records her as being born in Avington, so she either spoke like the Queen or had a Norfolk accent!

And finally ...

Rod+Tim

Old age:



- >> I'm old enough to remember when paper bags were blamed for the destruction of trees and plastic bags were the answer !!
- >> Q: What's the best thing about being 102 years old?
A: No peer pressure.
- >> Ebenezer is soooo old his birth certificate has expired !!

Murphy's Law:

- >> After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch or you'll need the loo !!
Corollary:
the severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach !!
- >> Whenever there's a 50-50 chance of something, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
- >> We know about Murphy's Law and how fundamentally things go wrong, but have you heard of Cole's Law?
Cole's law, put simply, is thinly sliced cabbage and carrots served cold with mayonnaise.

Deadline for next issue: 23 April

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