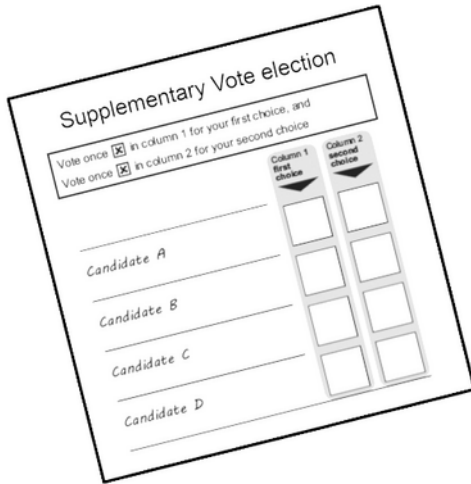


The Ovington Oracle

May 2021



It's local election time on 6 May.

Turnout is often low when it is only a local election, probably more so with COVID restriction but our democratic rights are hard earned, so please get out and vote.

If you don't like any candidates, say so!

Unlike some countries we don't have a "none of the above" box, but you can still write it on the ballot paper and that preference is officially recorded as a 'spoilt ballot', a little known but powerful democratic choice. As well as the votes recorded for each candidate I'll report 'spoilt ballot' in the June Oracle.

Where did the April showers go?

The name May is an adaption of the Latin word Maius, which has origins going back to the ancient Greeks. They named the month of May (or Maius) after the Greek goddess of growth.

Hopefully there will be a little rain otherwise that growth isn't going to happen!

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

Currently:

- Only socialise indoors with people you live with or who are in your support bubble.
- Up to 6 people or 2 households can meet outside.
- Work from home if you can and minimise travel.
- If you have symptoms get a test and stay at home.
(phone 119 or see www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test)



Summary of Step 3 – Social contact:

No earlier than 17 May, the government will look to continue easing limits on seeing friends and family wherever possible, allowing people to decide on the appropriate level of risk for their circumstances.

This means that most legal restrictions on meeting others outdoors will be lifted, although gatherings of over 30 people will remain illegal. Indoors, the Rule-of-6 or 2 households will apply.

Those without symptoms can order free lateral flow home test kits:

www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

Local Elections

Editor

Two separate local elections will take place on 6 May, the polling station is at the Village Hall, open between 7:00am and 10:00pm.:

Norfolk County Council

- BIRT, Timothy Edward (Green Party)
- BOWES, Claire Rosemary (The Conservative Party Candidate)
- MINTO, James Ian (Liberal Democrat)
- PRINCE, Keith David (Labour Party Candidate)

Vote for one person. This is a simple '*first past the post*' election, where the candidate with the most votes is elected.

Police and Crime Commissioner

- CROFTS, John Peter (Liberal Democrat)
- MORELAND, David John (Independent)
- ORPEN-SMELLIE, Giles Rackley (The Conservative Party Candidate)
- ROSEN, Michael (Labour and Co-operative Party)
- SCHMIERER, Martin Kenneth Albert (The Green Party)

Vote for your first choice candidate, separately you may also vote for your second choice candidate.

This is a *Supplementary Vote* election: if no candidate gets over 50% of the vote, the top two candidates continue to a run-off and all other candidates are eliminated.

If your first choice candidate gets through, your vote is counted for them in the run-off. If they didn't, but your second choice did, your vote goes to them. The run-off candidate with the most votes is elected.

COVID-19 rules will apply at polling stations, please bring your own pencil! The count is likely to take much longer than usual due to social distancing requirements.

In memory of Dorothy Youngs

Village

It is with great sadness that after a short illness Dorothy passed away peacefully on 14 April 2021 at the age of 89. She was a resident of Ovington until moving into Watton in later life. Dot was a long-standing member of the former Ovington Ladies Group and she will be missed by her friends. A private funeral will be held due to current restrictions. Donations in her memory for East Anglian Air Ambulance.



Messages

Rod Rumsby

Thank you

A big thank you to Jeff Smith for digging out and clearing all the years of rubbish from the ditch at the rear of the nine properties along the street.

He did remark on the amount of domestic and other rubbish in the ditch, which was seriously impeding the flow of water along the channel.

Please can home owners whose properties border the ditch please not allow domestic rubbish and tree branches to enter and block the ditch in future. There is a constant flow of water along this stretch so enabling an unobstructed flow will also facilitate surface water drainage from your properties and should keep the channel clear for some time in the future. Thank you for your cooperation. This message applies to all ditches in the village that adjoin properties, they were dug out initially for a good reason and should be kept free from detritus.

Gardener's Delight

Barry Lambert

Sweet Peas

Autumn Sown

Autumn sown Sweet Peas will have stood in cold frames all winter, with all air given in fine weather only, needing protection from sharp frosts and excess moisture, and can be planted out late March and April, protecting them from birds, slugs and snails.

Spring Sown

These can be sown in a cold greenhouse or frame placing 4 to 5 seeds in a 3½" pot, with the objective of hardening off the plants as soon as possible. As soon as 3 to 4 pairs of leaves have formed the top of the plants should be pinched out, so as to form strong side shoots, before planting out.

Towards the end of "April" these plants should be far superior to the small pots of spindly Sweet Peas plants seen for sale in some retail outlets.

Good results can also be had from sowing seed direct into well watered drills in the open garden in "May".



Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



For March the total was 36.5mm or 1.43"

This month of April so far we have had minor inundations of 3.5mm or 0.14", 1.00 mm of that was snow earlier in the month, measured after the white stuff had melted.

[Editor: I've moved to my sunshine graphic!]

Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

Heidi Frary (Clerk)

Saturday 1 May, 5:00pm via Zoom.

(For access codes contact the Parish Clerk)

Reports have been invited from local organisations including:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| • Parish Council | Karen Weir |
| • Village Hall | Dave Welsted |
| • Fuel Trust | Lyndia Lewis |
| • Ovington Church | Ann Johnson |
| • Allotment Association | Jill Burgess |
| • Ovington Navy | Jeremy Woods |
| • Ovington Oracle | Tim Birt |
| • District Councillor | Tim Birt / Helen Crane |
| • County Councillor | Claire Bowes |

Parish Council (PC) – AGM

Heidi Frary (Clerk)

Next meeting:

Saturday 1 May, following the APM via Zoom.

Legal documents at: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Church News

Jean Rockett, Lay Minister



Our first service after the restoration work which started in February was on Good Friday, 2 April which covered the stations of the cross. This service was followed by our Easter Service on Sunday, 4 April which was well attended.

We have held two services in remembrance of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. If you missed these services I have left service sheets in the church. Please take a copy for yourself and a friend or neighbour.

Unless things change we will continue to have regular Sunday services and I look forward to seeing you there. All forthcoming services will be held at 10:30am unless the village notice board advises you otherwise.

You may hear the church bell being rung at 10:15am each Sunday morning. There will be no need to run as we will await your arrival.

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

Jean

Tel: 07749 870485

Ann Johnson

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

will be held on
SUNDAY, 2 MAY 2021
11:00am
in
ST JOHN'S CHURCH
OVINGTON

(Covid rules will apply –i.e. the wearing of masks and social distancing)

And finally ...

Rod



Timely quotes:

- >> Ninety-eight percent of adults in this country are decent, hard working, honest citizens. It's the other lousy two percent that get all the publicity. But we are to blame ... we elected them !
- >> He knows nothing, he thinks he knows everything ... that clearly points to a political career !
- >> Holidays
The period when those "rainy days" for which a person saves, usually arrive !

Deadline for next issue: 23 May

Edit and Production: Timothy Birt (01953-889208)
(Printed with my Ecosys printer on Stone House Farm, The Street, Ovington,
100% recycled paper) Thetford, Norfolk. IP25 6RT

Proof reader: Christine Reilly (885848)

Please send contributions to either above or email:

oracle@ovington.org.uk