

# *The Ovington Oracle*

June 2021

Last month I asked “Where did the April showers go?”  
I think we now know ... double helpings in May!



The summer solstice occurs precisely at 4:32am (BST) on 21 June. We will be half way through the solar year.

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A few historic June events:

- 1 June 1946    Television licences were issued, costing £2.
- 8 June 793     First of the Viking attacks on Lindisfarne.
- 10 June 1829   Oxford won the first Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Race.
- 15 June 1215   King John signed the Magna Carta at Runnymede, thus removing total authority from the monarchy forever.
- 29 June. 1613   London's Globe Theatre is destroyed by fire as a cannon is fired in Shakespeare's Henry V.

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Local COVID-19 information: [ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home](https://ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home)

National COVID-19: [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Village Information: [ovington-village.org.uk](https://ovington-village.org.uk)

Parish Council: [ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home](https://ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home)

Oracle back copies: [ovington.org.uk/oracle](https://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](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021)

On 17 May, the government implemented the next phase of unlocking, full details of what is now permitted can be found at:

[www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do)



There have been multiple updates to the guidance recently especially following the B.1.617.2 (Indian) variant.

Crucially, you should get a test and follow the stay at home guidance if you have COVID-19 symptoms.

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

[www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

## Next step

21 June should mark the final stage of unlocking and this is the message being sent out from repeated Government press statements. The final decision as to whether to proceed with this final step will be published on 14 June.

## Caution

Having reviewed data, I caution against booking too much on 22 June. New variant cases are rising exponentially, initially this was masked by a fall in the previous 'Kent' variant; and the Astra Zeneca vaccine has only been demonstrated to be 60% effective against the new variant in fully vaccinated people. Taken together, these may not be sufficient to allow full removal of all restrictions. Time will tell.

## Local Elections Results

*Editor*

Norfolk County Council (Watton division):

<b>Name</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>Position</b>
BIRT, Timothy Edward (Green Party)	380	2
BOWES, Claire Rosemary (The Conservative Party Candidate)	1685	1 <b>ELECTED</b>
MINTO, James Ian (Liberal Democrat)	154	4
PRINCE, Keith David (Labour Party Candidate)	327	3

Spoilt ballot papers: 17 (0.66%, 1 per 150 votes),  
Turnout: 27.07%

Police and Crime Commissioner:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Round_1</b>	<b>Round_2</b>	<b>Position</b>
CROFTS, John Peter (Liberal Democrat)	31666	-	(3)
MORELAND, David John (Independent)	20473	-	(5)
ORPEN-SMELLIE, Giles Rackley (The Conservative Party Candidate)	103980	119994	1 <b>ELECTED</b>
ROSEN, Michael (Labour and Co-operative Party)	51056	69552	2
SCHMIERER, Martin Kenneth Albert (The Green Party)	23469	-	(4)

Only the top two candidates from the first round proceed to Round\_2.  
Second choice votes from the eliminated candidates are allocated giving  
their final totals. Of those valid second choice votes, 35053 could not be  
allocated because the second choice candidate did not reach round\_2.

Spoilt ballot papers (round\_1): 7005 (2.95%, 1 per 34 votes)

Additional spoilt ballot papers (round\_2): 6051, mainly no second choice

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## Village History: Tithes, a Mill and a Beer House

*Chris Lewis*

Tithes were originally a tax which required one tenth of all agricultural produce to be paid annually to support the local church and clergy.

After the Reformation much land passed from the Church to lay owners who inherited entitlement to receive tithes, along with the land. The 1836 Tithe Commutation Act required tithes in kind to be converted to more convenient monetary payments called tithe rent charge. To accomplish this a map was drawn up on which we find in Ovington in 1843 land owned by one James Baker comprising a cottage, a mill and a garden. Now Mill Lane.

The miller, James Elsegood, lived in Watton while the cottage appears to be occupied by the Widow Adcock (possibly Jane Cook) and the family of Charles Fumage. The cottage was described as being a Beer House. These were created by the 1830 Beer-house Act, legally defined as a place "where beer is sold to be consumed on the premises".



Existing public houses were issued with licences by local magistrates under the terms of the Retail Brewers Act 1828, and were subject to police inspections at any time of the day or night. Proprietors of the new beer-houses, on the other hand, simply had to buy a licence from the government costing two guineas per annum. Unfair competition but good for the drinkers of Ovington. What do you think?

## Grafting Tomato Plants

This process can be carried out without difficulty by amateur gardeners, with a greenhouse, carried out in Holland over 50 years ago. Grafted plants have been sold by seed and plant growers for the past few seasons, resulting in better pest and disease resistance and much more heavy crops. Tomato and rootstock seed is sown the same time and once the plants are about 3 inches tall they can be grafted and potted, retaining both root systems:



A downward cut is made in the rootstock stem (left) and an upward cut in the stem of the scion (centre). The two lips are then joined together (right) and sealed with adhesive tape. The scion root will disappear once planted out and the adhesive tape cut

For a number of years I have grown “Alicante”, which is one of the best of the non F1 hybrid varieties, in the soil base of my greenhouse.

## Wallflowers

Now is a good time to sow seed for next year’s flowers pricking out the small plants in a nursery bed when growing. Pinch out the top of plants to form bushy plants for planting out in the autumn (like the plants in front of the “Village sign”).

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## Rainfall

*Rod Rumsby*



April showers were conspicuous by their absence all we had was 6.5mm or around a quarter of an inch in total.

May, so far, is making up for that lack as we have had 75mm or around 3". And we have another 10 days to go with the forecast looking bleak.

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## Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

*Editor*

Held on Saturday 1 May at 5:00pm via Zoom.

Reports were received from local organisations:

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| • Parish Council        | Karen Weir             |
| • Village Hall          | Ed Reilly              |
| • Fuel Trust            | Lyndia Lewis           |
| • Ovington Church       | Jean Rocket            |
| • Allotment Association | Chris Lewis            |
| • Ovington Oracle       | Tim Birt               |
| • District Councillors  | Tim Birt / Helen Crane |
| • County Councillor     | Claire Bowes           |
| • (Ovington Navy)       | Jeremy Woods           |

All written reports are available to view on the Parish Council website at:

[ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home/2021](https://ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home/2021)

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## Parish Council (PC) – AGM

*Heidi Frary (Clerk)*

A report compiled from the unconfirmed minutes of the virtual meeting held via Zoom on 1 May following the APM.

### **Election of Chairman / Vice Chairman**

Karen Weir was elected as chairman, Timothy Birt was elected as Vice-chairman, both thanked fellow members and signed their respective acceptance of office.

### **Technical Items**

The following were presented for adoption/approval (all circulated before the meeting):

- The Financial Summary for the year 2020/21 and Asset Register
- Review and confirm arrangements for the management of risk, statement of internal control and financial regulations
- To agree and sign the Certificate of Exemption 2020/21
- Agreement of Annual Statement of Governance 2020/21
- Agreement of Accounting Statement 2020/21

### **Finance and Precept**

Councillors agreed payments to be made (full details on website) and noted the half-yearly precept income.

### **Future Business**

To review village events following the expected removal of lockdown restrictions.

### **Next meeting:**

Wednesday 21 July at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Legal documents at: [ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home](https://ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home)



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## Church News

*Jean Rockett, Lay Minister*



We are now able to hold services at our parish church each Sunday morning. Unfortunately, we are still unable to sing praises to our Lord and the wearing of masks is still compulsory, unless of course you have a medical exemption. We have a supply of sanitising wipes and hand gel for your personal use.

The following services are being held in June:

6 June – 10:30am	Holy Communion – Revd Jane
13 June – 10:30am	Family Service – Jean Rockett
20 June – 10:30am	Family Service – Jean Rockett
27 June – 10:30am	Family Service – Jean Rockett

At our Annual Parochial Church meeting two new churchwardens were elected. They are Jeremy Woods and Jessica Rockett.

I would personally like to thank our two outgoing Churchwardens, Kelly Scott and Chris Springford, for their hard work and support in keeping our church going throughout the last two rather traumatic years due to the Covid virus. Hopefully things will be easier for Jeremy and Jessica.

I would also like to thank Chris Lewis and David Welsted who have been supplying music during services. Unfortunately, at present we do not have an organist. If anyone would like to offer their services, we would be very grateful for their help. My thanks also go to our lovely ladies who have been cleaning our church and decorating it with beautiful flowers. If you can give a little time to help then please see Lyndia Lewis or Gill Welsted.

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

Jean

Tel: 07749 870485

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## In memory: Valerie Shinn

Village

Our condolences and thoughts are with Brian Shinn whose wife Valerie died peacefully in her sleep at Dorrington House. A private funeral has been held.



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## Ovington Cycling Club

Chris Lewis



Members took advantage of a rare fine day to enjoy their first ride of the season. A gentle trip down to Watton and across the airfield via Stan's Walk to Griston only to find the *Waggon and Horses* still closed. Riding onward to the edge of the village we found demolished street signs and two big holes in the hedge. Deciding that Griston motorists were not conducive to a peaceful journey onward we returned across the airfield meeting two old Ovingtonians, John and Christine Hardy, who were taking the less energetic way of exercising on foot. Remarkably, after several months of abstinence, nobody fell off.

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## Country Life

*Rod Rumsby*

Some years ago there was an old farmer who had a field bordered by a hedge that, when the season was right, was a mass of blackberries.

Young lads and lasses were often sent out to gather blackberries, so this field was a main attraction. Sadly the farmer was not best pleased by kids running over his land and his method of moving them on never varied. He would stand at the top of the field and call out loudly.:

"Git yew orf my turnip tops, git yew owt tha gate mate, if yew don't run I'll git my gun and then yew'll be too late mate"

No one ever recalls him getting his gun, mainly because they had taken him at his word and scarpered. In my distant memory I can still recall his cry today, but I never spilled any of his sumptuous blackberries whilst making my get away nor did I get shot.

## And finally ...

Rod

### Some more of **Murphy's Laws**:

- >> *Law of accessibility*: Any tool, nut, bolt, screw when dropped will roll to the least accessible place imaginable.
- >> *Law of observation*: The probability of being seen is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.
- >> *Law of bathing*: When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone will ring.
- >> *Law of apparel*: If the clothes fit they are ugly.



### **Deadline for next issue: 22 June**

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