

# The Ovington Oracle

July 2021

## Wedding celebration postponed

*Jean Rockett*

Jeremy and I are still getting married on 31 July, but unfortunately with the latest Lock-down extension we cannot have all our family members and village friends attending.

At present the rules for lock-down mean that we cannot have more than 50 people attending an outdoor event. Both Jeremy and I feel that it would be unfair to choose who could or could not attend our wedding celebrations.

With this in mind, we have decided to postpone our afternoon celebration, including music, for a couple of months, until things return to something like 'normal'.

We look forward to having a church blessing and Village celebration in August/September and hope that you will be able to join with us at that time.

As the summer solstice fades into memory, the next interesting event on the Editor's celestial calendar is aphelion, the point at which the Earth is furthest from the sun on its slightly elliptical orbit. It occurs on 5 July at 23:27 to be precise – if ever an excuse was needed, it sounds like a reason to have a celebratory beer.



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)

## Contents

Wedding celebration postponed.....	1
Message Board.....	2
COVID-19 update.....	3
Gardener's Delight.....	4
Tales from our Churchyard.....	5
Village Hall.....	6
Parish Council (PC).....	6
Church News.....	7
Rainfall.....	7
And finally .....	8

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## Message Board

From: Lyndia Lewis

I have lots of bricks if any one wants them to complete a project or maybe make a path? I also have, thanks to the squirrels in my garden, some 2 year-old trees as follows:

4 Oak trees

3 Walnut trees

If you are interested in any of the above please ring me on 882222.

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## COVID-19 update

*Editor*

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The Government has announced a delay to the final unlocking stage of the roadmap until 19 July, however there were a number of relaxations introduced on June 21 especially around weddings, funerals and care home visits.

Following the changes to the COVID roadmap and guidance some of the previous quoted internet links are no longer valid. For up-to-date information see:

[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)

The next key reporting date by Government about the final unlocking is 12 July, a week before the specified unlocking date. They indicated that “the data will be reviewed after 2 weeks in case the risks have reduced”. However a look at the COVID-19 dashboard ...

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

... shows that the Delta variant is still causing cases to rise exponentially and although the link to hospitalisation has been significantly reduced it is not severed. The NHS is still under pressure with over 1500 patients with COVID-19 occupying beds at the end of June.

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

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)

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### **Caution**

I mentioned caution in last month's Oracle and that seems to have come to fruition as the Government has delayed the final unlocking stage until 19 July. They appear to be backing themselves into a corner with that fixed date, but I doubt it will be the promised end of all restrictions. To be on the safe side, I suggest you have a contingency for any plans which rely on full unlocking.

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# Gardener's Delight

Barry Lambert

## Sweet William

Now is a good time to sow Sweet William seed, for next year's flowering, in well watered drills, thinning or pricking out the seedlings when large enough to handle.

## Coleus

These are mostly grown for their attractive foliage. Belonging to the nettle family they make good pot plants with their variegated foliage. When big enough pot into 5" pots. Pinch back to induce a bushy habit. Flowers should be nipped off.

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Barry – aged 10

## WATERHEN / MOORHEN

Ovington in the early 1950's was only about half the size it is today, with no bungalows and no houses up the Church Road and with a shortage of food at times. "Eggs" in particular were often in short supply, so most households would keep a few hens in the back garden to supply eggs. I kept about 30 Bantams and sold the eggs.

One egg, however, always sought after by boys was that of the "Waterhen". With most ponds and pits in the village you could find a nest. In some ponds the water was crystal clear and if you watched you would hear the bird leave the nest and with her long thin toes (not webbed feet) swam under water and surfaced near the edge of the pond with the tip of her bill poking out of the water to breath until it was safe to return to the nest. Some boys used a large spoon on a stick or a large tea strainer, or if you weren't worried about getting wet, we would wade in over our knees and hope we dried off before we got home. Some nests contained up to 15 or 20 eggs. Best to leave these alone as 2 hen birds could be laying in the same nest.

The Moorhen, a small bantam sized bird, is happy to live in farmyards with domestic fowl, eating any additional grain offered until about "Easter" when they make for ponds, ditches or any wet areas, even nesting in trees or hedges if near water.

### **A Rather Splendid Tomb For A Country Churchyard**

While walking about the churchyard one cannot help but notice a very imposing tomb on the north side of the church. The inscription is to Henry John William Hunter and his wife Elizabeth. Henry was the son of John Hunter born 1806 in Shipdham who in turn may have been the son of John Hunter (b.1780) also buried in this churchyard, hence an Ovington connection. Henry was born in Ovington in 1833 but the family had moved to Barwick near Docking by 1836 when his sister Isabel was born. They will have been a fairly wealthy farming family employing a governess and up to four other servants to look after their eight children.

They must have retained their connections with Ovington as Henry married Elizabeth (possibly Wright) in 1857 and their first and only child, also Henry John William, was born there the following year. Henry senior was described as a farmer and sadly died at the age of 27. Henry junior is shown on the register of electors for Ovington from 1884 to 1906. He married Rachael and they had at least five children (yes another Henry John William) and is described variously as a Farm Bailiff and Farmer. Henry John William (the third?) was married in Watton to Edith in 1905. Are there any more?

Our churchyard represents a valuable part of the history of Ovington coupled with the church records as well as adding to the character and charm of the village. A small team of volunteers has endeavoured to keep the grass in good order but many of the individual graves are sadly neglected. How about adopting a grave and spending a few moments tidying it up while enjoying the tranquillity and wildlife? And perhaps doing your own research into the lives of those who have lived here before us.

## Village Hall

*Christine Reilly*

Even though the village hall has been closed throughout the pandemic, it still has limited sources of income. The solar panels have just brought in £328.50 for the second quarter – let's hope for a bright summer full of sunshine! Breckland Council have also made their annual credit for our recycling banks. In the year to the end of March the following amounts were credited:

Item	Tonnage	Value
Textiles	0.48	£ 111.71
Glass	4.8	£ 235.39
Total		£ 347.10

Please continue to support this recycling effort and, if you can get to the village hall bottle bank, don't put your bottles and jars in your grey bins!

Hopefully by the end of July we will be able to re-open the village hall and plan some events for the rest of the year. The **AGM** will be held on Thursday, 22 July at 7:00pm, open to all, so come along and let us know what you would like to see in your hall. If restrictions are relaxed by then, it might be possible to offer a tea or coffee after the meeting – it's enough to make you feel quite giddy!

(Please note that, if restrictions are extended beyond 19 July, the meeting may have to be rescheduled.)

## Parish Council (PC)

*Heidi Frary (Clerk)*

### Next meeting:

Wednesday 21 July at 7:30pm in the Village Hall, subject to unlocking going ahead as planned this will be an 'in person' meeting.

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

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## Church News

*Jean Rockett, Lay Minister*



We are planning to hold an evening service once a month over the next three months. This will be held outside the church, weather permitting, which means that we will be able to sing.

Hallelujah!!!

I look forward to seeing you there on 11 July.

The following services are being held in July:

4 July – 10:30am	Holy Communion – Revd Jane
11 July – 10:30am	Family Service – Jean Rockett
11 July – 6:00pm	Summer Evening Hymns – Jean Rockett
18 July – 10:30am	Family Service – Jean Rockett
25 July – 10:30am	<u>St Mary's church, Watton</u> for Gerry Foster's retirement service

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

With love in Christ

Jean

Tel: 07749 870485

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## Rainfall

*Rod Rumsby*



May 2021 final total: 105mm or 4.1"

For June so far (21st) we have 42.5mm or 1.67"

The dust has been well and truly laid.

### Don't mess with children:

- >> A primary school teacher was observing her class of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied "I'm drawing God".



The teacher paused and said  
"But no one knows what God looks like"

Without missing a beat or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied  
"They will in a minute" !

- >> My mother taught me to appreciate a job well done.  
"If you two are going to kill each other, do it outside. I've just finished cleaning".
- >> The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house and their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!
- >> I never thought the comment "I wouldn't touch him/her with a six foot bargepole" would become a national policy – but here we are....

### Submission deadline for next issue: 23 July

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