

The Ovington Oracle

September 2021

On 22 September (at 8:21pm to be precise) marks the autumnal equinox where night-time wins out over day-time. For some of us this marks the start of autumn, although meteorologists start autumn on 1 September.

To Autumn

John Keats

31 Oct 1795 – 23 Feb 1821

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

... (two more verses)

10-19 September

The heritage festival offers the opportunity to visit sites and events across the whole of the UK and it's all FREE!



www.heritageopendays.org.uk

The website offers a search facility, with 302 events listed in Norfolk.

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September Village Events

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5-C
6-VH	7	8	9	10	11-C	12-C
13-VH	14	15-PC	16	17	18-VH	19-C
20-VH	21	22	23	24	25 (p3)	26-C
27-VH	28	29	30			

VH:Village Hall, PC:Parish Council, C:Church, (p):see page number

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

Church Flower Rota

Gill Welsted

St John's Church Flower Rota for 2021/22

Over the years the ladies of Ovington have taken turns in decorating the Church with flowers throughout the year, generally once a month, just to make it look nice.

I'm looking for volunteers to go on my Flower Rota. If you are interested, enjoy making simple flower arrangements and can help out please give me a call.

Gill Welsted – 01953 797834

Coffee Morning – NARS

Jane Lambert

I will be holding a coffee morning in aid of *Norfolk Accident Rescue Service* (NARS) on Saturday 25 September in the Village Hall, 10:00am 'till 1:00pm.

NARS are a local charity based in Dereham.

Please come along and enjoy a cuppa-and-cake, chat with friends. There will also be a tombola, craft and cake stall.

Any donations or anyone willing to bake a cake will be appreciated: you can drop off at 25 The Street anytime.

So come along and help support this charity.

Many thanks, Jane.

Household Hazardous Waste Day

Briefly returning to the major recycling centres in September and October, where, amongst other things, you may dispose of many liquid items such as paint which would not normally be accepted (full list on website below). Our nearest centre running the event is Dereham at the weekend 18/19 September between 9:00am and 4:00pm.

Expect it to be busier than normal.

www.norfolkrecycles.com/household-hazardous-waste-days-2021

Bonfires

We all love to have a nice bonfire, especially on those cold November evenings when the smoke therefrom mingles with others burning at the same time. However the smoke can be a nuisance when it occurs during the day and no consideration is taken of the wind direction. As we live in a rural community and many still use traditional methods of drying their laundry by hanging it outside, it is rather disconcerting to find it smoke dried instead.

Please would those having bonfires take note of the weather forecast and wind direction and avoid times of the day likely to cause disturbance to others. Thank you.

Bin Collection

Breckland Council are currently experiencing service disruptions which is affecting some bin collections across the district.

Please leave out your bin and Serco crews will collect your bin as soon as possible.

Wedding Celebration – thank you

Jean & Jeremy

We would like to thank all who helped to make our Wedding Day special.

I arrived with my son John-Jo seated on “Blossom”, a Sunflower decorated Traction Engine driven by Marion Dolphin with hubby Alan leading the way. Bruce Smith was a great help, housing Blossom overnight and making sure that the coal was clean. We were followed by my Grandsons Marc, Alex and Riley and Bridesmaids Jessica Rockett and Jill Burgess. Our thanks go to Rachel who was our photographer and did a fantastic job as this is not her usual type of work.

I must thank Geoff Angel for getting Jeremy to the church on time. Due to the welcome party I did arrive a little late into the church. It was so lovely to be greeted by so many from the village, plus family members, The church was beautifully decorated with flowers and ribbons co-ordinated by Jane Lambert. The Wedding service was led by our lovely Revd. Jane Atkins and Geraldine Fosh did a wonderful job of the Bible reading. David Saunders did a fantastic job playing our church organ with renditions of Wagner’s Bridal Chorus, Mendelssohn’s Wedding March, and two hymns Praise My Soul the King of Heaven and Jerusalem. My daughter Jessica arranged Pachelbel’s Cannon to be played on her phone during which we signed the register. My brother John and Sister Maryrose were our witnesses. David Welsted was our Verger for the day, keeping everyone organised with buttonholes and seating.

The reception was held in the village hall which had been decorated with bunting and flowers. Our thanks go to the dozen village ladies who catered for vegan and gluten-free diets and spouses who helped with serving our guests. Thank you Gill, Lyndia, Jill, Penny, Harriett, Sam, Christine, Sue, Rose, Jane, David, Richard and Mike. Music was laid on by Chris Lewis and Jeremy and I were able to lead the first dance.

Our beautiful 3-tier wedding cake was made by my friend from St. John Ambulance, Denise Eves.

Unfortunately we were restricted by numbers but are planning to have a village celebration garden party, the date of which we will display on the village notice board. We hope to see you all there.

Ovington's living history

Barry Lambert

Trees and Plants and Birds Nesting in Ovington

Most boys in the 40's had a collection of "blown" birds eggs ^{**[see end-note]}. Blackbirds and Song Thrush, followed by the 3 sparrows, Hedge, House and Tree. Next came the House Martin, Swallow and Swift. We used to cycle to the sand pits in Summer Lane, Carbrooke, where the Sand Martins nested in large numbers. Starlings nested under the tiles so could be easily found. "Ovington Rectory" was empty for a time, and this was a magnet for the village children. The Rectory meadow, as it was known, extended down to the church corner, where Chris and Lyndia now live, with a large rookery in the top of some huge Elm trees, too high even for us boys to climb.

Underneath grew a large area of Snakes Head Fritillaria in mahogany and white. The rest of the field extended up to the Rectory's wide sweeping lawns which were surrounded with huge bushes of Rambler Roses, the meadow being planted in "Victorian times" with a large number of Daffodils and Narcissi, including the now rare Pheasant Eye Narcissi, together with a number of fine specimen trees. The daffodils, when cut, being sold for "church funds".

Part of the rear of the Rectory grounds was a large garden, used for the growing of a large range of fruit and veg, and a large orchard with apples, pears, plums, walnuts and figs. An area of woodland, still in existence today, housed a rookery, much lower down than the other one and much easier to climb. On one side of the driveway leading up to the house was a row of magnificent mature Lime trees which when growing too close together every other one was cut down by "M. Crooke, Timber Merchant" using axes, wedges and crosscut saws. No chainsaws in those days! The living stumps of some still remain today.

The red flowered "conker" tree, where "Mike and Sam" now live, was much smaller then but was surrounded by a vast bed of blue Grape Hyacinths and Tulips. In part of the woodland was a small pile of rusty tin cans and an old rusty kettle, being the favourite nesting place for a robin.

Moving into the churchyard next to the Rectory, lots of ancient gravestones would be covered with "Ivy" which was an ideal place for

“Linnets” to nest. The church tower with no netting over the top windows was a favourite for Jackdaws. The fields used for the growing of sugar beet were an ideal place for Skylarks to nest and a high Hawthorn hedge for Magpies to build a domed nest. In the ivy-clad ditch along the Watton Road to the river you could always find the nests of the Yellowhammer who liked to build in the dry bank. Kingfishers were seen on most streams, but I never did find a nest, nor that of the Dipper, a bird spending most of its life near water.

To be continued

[** Editor: *Times have changed! It has been illegal to take the eggs of most wild birds since the Protection of Birds Act 1954. Additionally, it has been illegal to either possess or control the eggs of wild birds' eggs taken since the start of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Possession of wild birds' eggs is an offence with the onus on the owner to show their possession is lawful.*]

Parish Council (PC)

Heidi Frary – Clerk

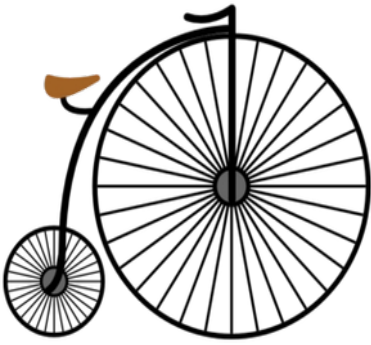
Next meetings:

Wednesday 15 September and 17 November 2021 at 7:30pm at Ovington Village Hall.

Legal documents at: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Viewpoint: More Cycle Racks

Chris Lewis



As we are constantly urged to be concerned (terrified!) by climate change and the government are intent on us giving up our petrol and diesel powered cars in favour of electric, it is worth considering that the energy required is dependent on the weight of the vehicle regardless of where it comes from. My Morris Mini, of which I owned five over the years,

weighed in at about 630kg. Its BMW successor weighs 1295kg depending on the model, twice as much. The added weight has much to do with the safety of the occupants but not of other road users and it goes a lot faster.

If we are to be serious about saving the planet by burning less fuel we must switch to much lighter vehicles and accept lower speeds on our roads. For most short trips to town or to work it is not necessary to haul along a two tonne SUV just to transport one or two people. Some baby steps have been taken towards this by allowing smaller electric bikes to be exempt from tax and insurance and cycling was briefly encouraged by a limited supply of maintenance vouchers. But this is not enough. It would take a lot to persuade me to cycle even the short distance along the busy A1075 to Watton to get my shopping and, on arrival, to find nowhere to secure my cycle from theft.

A first step would be a safe cycle path from Ovington to Watton and cycle racks along the High Street. Maybe an email to George Freeman MP, george.freeman.mp@parliament.uk, who professes to be interested in green issues would set the ball rolling!

Village Hall

Christine Reilly

Thank you to all those who are supporting the village hall by attending the Monday coffee mornings. It has been good to catch up with old friends over coffee and cake. Join us from 10:30am on a Monday - everyone is welcome, especially anyone new to the village.

On 4 September I will be taking a stall at the Subridge Market in Saham on behalf of the village hall, selling gifts and our charity Christmas cards. It starts at 10:00am and the overall event is to benefit a rehoming charity for hens. All proceeds from our stall will go to Ovington Village Hall.

There will be an indoor table top sale at the village hall on Saturday 18 September from 10:30am – 2:30pm. If you have been decluttering during lockdown, now is the opportunity to sell all your surplus gear. Ring me on 01953 885848 to book a table as space is limited for reasons of social distancing. It costs £10 per table and stall holders can enjoy free hot drinks during the event. Refreshments (and cake!) will be on sale, with seating available outside, weather-permitting.

Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



Total for July was 77mm or just a fraction over 3".

21 August, so far we have had 38mm or 1.5"

[Editor: *I've moved to the cloud image it's been a particularly dull August.*]

Church News

Jean Rockett, Lay Minister



Services at our church are beginning to get back to “normal”, but if you wish to attend with a face mask that is up to you. Antiseptic hand gel and wipes are available for your use. I look forward to seeing you there.

The following services and events are being held in September:

5 Sept – 9:30am	Holy Communion
11 Sept – all day	Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride From 9:00am
12 Sept– 10:30am	Family Service – Jean Rockett
12 Sept – 6:00pm	Summer Evening Hymns – Jean Rockett
19 Sept– 10:30am	Harvest Service – Jean Rockett
26 Sept – 10:30am	Family Service – Jean Rockett

After the Harvest service we will be selling the produce, the money raised will be used to help with the work in the church. There is still refurbishment work needed for our lovely 900+ year old building in which the walls are in need of a lime wash paint.

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

With love in Christ

Jean – 07749 870485

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Gov.uk

Coronavirus remains a serious health risk. You should stay cautious to help protect yourself and others.

- Meet outside, or open windows and doors for indoor visitors
- If you think you have symptoms stay at home and take a PCR test
- Wear face coverings in crowded places and on public transport
- Check in to venues when you go out
- Wash your hands with soap regularly, and for at least 20 seconds
- Get vaccinated



And finally ...

Rod+Tim

Another set of Murphy's laws:

- >> The chances of an open-faced jam sandwich landing face down on a floor are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.
- >> As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it OR the store will stop selling it !!!
- >> Uniforms only come in two sizes, too large and too small.



Weird questions:

- >> Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?
- >> Why do people who know the least know it the loudest?
- >> Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?

Submission deadline for next issue: 22 September

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