

The Ovington Oracle

October 2021

We would like to thank the lovely people of Ovington for all their messages of condolence, cards, good wishes and offers of help. Much appreciated. Grace will be missed by all who knew her, especially her family who without exception loved her dearly. By the time this edition hits the street the funeral will have taken place, but we hope that we saw many of you at the celebration service and at the reception in the Village Hall following.

Thank you all once again. Rod, Julie, Helen and families.



The clocks go back at 2:00am Sunday 31 October. We gain an extra hour of sleep by repeating the hour, is it like the film *Groundhog Day*?

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October Public Village Events

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3-C
4-VH	5	6	7	8	9	10-C
11-VH	12	13	14	15	16	17-C
18-VH	19	22	21	22	23	24-C
25-VH	26	27	28	29	30	31-C

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

Twenty 's Plenty

Chris Lewis



Following my article in last month's Oracle calling for a safer cycling route into Watton I decided to contact George Freeman MP to sound out his views on the problem. Lo and behold! I received in short order replies from both the Department of Transport and Norfolk County Council the gist of which is that the government has the ambition for "Cycling and walking to be the natural first choice for many journeys with half of all journeys in towns and cities being cycled or

walked by 2030" and are investing £2 billion over five years and £338 million this financial year to achieve this. The majority of this funding is for local authority infrastructure. Norfolk CC response included the statement that they "... have liaised with the Lead Project Officer for this who will ensure that the route from Ovington to Watton is looked at as part of the wider cycling and walking planning across Norfolk."

Coincidentally residents have raised concerns with the Parish Council that ever increasing traffic through the village and disregard of speed limits is making it daily more dangerous to walk our streets. The new Highway Code rules that motorists should cede priority to pedestrians and cyclists but many are not aware of this. The outcome of discussion at the meeting was that, as a first step, we should push for a 20mph speed limit through the village and improved signage warning motorists to take care. This will require a traffic survey and subsequently the formation of a community speed watch group so drivers get the message. Both of which will require volunteers!

Meanwhile please voice your concerns to:

George Freeman, 8 Damgate Street, Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 0BQ
Tel: 01953 600617
Email: george.freeman.mp@parliament.uk

He is currently involved in a "Rat-Running" campaign so should be receptive.

Autumn Sown Sweet Peas

Barry Lambert



I find the second half of October the ideal time to sow sweet pea seeds in a moist compost, putting 3-4 seeds in a 3½" pot in a cold greenhouse or frame. Pinch out the top of the plant when 3-4 pairs of leaves have formed. Rather than sowing packets of mixed seed, where you tend to get too many of the same colour, (like when my mother used to "set" clutches of bantam eggs down you always seemed to get more cock birds than "laying hens") I like to sow packets of individually coloured flowers. I list below some I have grown for a number of years.

- Sgt. Blott – Scarlet
- Mrs. R. Chisholm – White
- Kippen Cream – Cream
- Sir Jimmy Shand – Mauve - striped white, sweetly scented
- Margaret Hughson – White Pink blotch
- Bobby Chisholm – Lavender.

The above were raised by the late Mr. R. Chisholm M.B.E. WWII Bomber pilot and teacher.

Sloes: The coming weeks are an ideal time for the picking of "Sloes". The fruit of the Blackthorn bush (seen in the hedge rows covered in pure white blossom early in the year). The berries make a pleasant jelly. "Sloe Gin" is made by soaking the berries in gin, which turns bright pink.

Pickled Walnut: The unripe fruit should be picked with the husks still green and soft, picked and soaked in brine for about a week till they turn black, then drained, dried for two days, and then bottled.

Crab Apple: Is popularly made into jelly. Most country people have their own recipe for all of the above.

Messages

Editor

Shipdham Surgery Flu Jab:

Unfortunately, I cannot give any definite dates as we are only being given 7-days notice of when the vaccines will be delivered which is making planning for us a nightmare. We will be putting dates on as soon as we can and will be contacting patients by phone. I would ask that patients bear with us as this is out of our control.

Practice Manager

Community Speed Watch:

The Parish Council is gauging interest in reforming the village speed watch. It is an official programme, with dedicated signage and equipment but must be carried out at an approved location (previously outside 31 The Street). That location is unlikely to catch many exceeding the 30mph limit, however any offenders are reported to the police and could receive a warning letter. Any volunteers please let your Councillors know.



Obituary: Grace Helen Rumsby

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Grace Rumsby on 5 September and we offer our sincere condolences to Rod and the family. Many in the village will remember Grace for her ability to organise – people and events. A woman of many talents, totally reliable, always willing to offer help or advice and give her honest opinion when asked. She lived a full, active life and it will come as no surprise to learn that she wrote the following record of her life shortly before she died. Grace will be greatly missed, but never forgotten.

"Grace was born on 19 December 1938 at Avenue Lodge, on part of the Wimpole estate in Cambridgeshire, to Gwen and Sidney Butler followed a couple of years later by a brother, Walter. The family moved into the nearby village of Whaddon in 1940. Grace went to the local village school and, after passing her 11 plus, attended Cambridgeshire high school for girls in Cambridge. She met Rod on the bus as she travelled to school.



Rod and Grace were married at Whaddon Methodist Chapel in March 1961. Grace made her own wedding dress. They moved to Cornwall as Rod was stationed at RAF St Mawgan. Their eldest daughter Julie was born at home, delivered by her dad on 27 December 1961. In 1964 Rod was posted for a year unaccompanied tour to Sharjah in the Middle East so Grace and Julie moved back to live with her parents in Whaddon. Their second daughter Helen was born a week after Rod left on 19 June 1964, so he did not meet her until 1965.

July 1965 saw the family posted to RAF Watton where Grace joined Watton Methodist church and the church choir. The family lived in married quarters for 18 months then, as Rod's time in the RAF was about to end, they bought their first home in Griston Road, Watton. Grace worked as a secretary for Lincoln and Buckle builders for several years before she went to work for Carbrooke farms in 1976 until she retired about 30 years later. In 1971 they moved to Ovington.

Grace undertook many roles for the chapel, organising many fundraising fetes and bazaars. She organised the Wednesday coffee mornings for 5 years. She served as Church treasurer and property chairman. She coordinated the making of the pew cushions and communion kneelers. Grace typed the weekly notice sheet for 7 years. She served on the WCCC committee and helped in the refurbishment of the centre. Along with her family, Grace undertook a sponsored clean-up of the chapel garden and, once cleared, helped with the gardens for several years.

Grace also organised fetes and bazaars, whist drives and beetle drives in Ovington to raise money for the village hall and church. Grace served on the village hall committee. She served as clerk to the Parish Council, later serving on the council and during her time as chairperson of the PC coordinated events to raise money for the village sign.

Grace was one of the founding members of Ovington Ladies Group which ran for 41 years from 1978. She also helped form the Ovington Garden Club and the Ovington Entertainers. She typed the village newsletter each month for 7 years.

To Grace, family was very important – she has 4 grandsons: Paul, Daniel, Jonathan and Jack; one granddaughter, Megan; one great granddaughter, Grace and one great grandson, William; 2 son-in-laws, Chris and Paul and 3 granddaughter-in-laws, Katy, Sammy and Katie.

Grace also enjoyed sewing and knitting, making clothes for herself and her girls and knitting many a jumper for her grandchildren. She also enjoyed cooking and gardening, especially growing tomatoes in her greenhouse."



Church News

Jean Rockett-Woods, Lay Minister



Services at our church are continuing 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.

Services and events for October:

3 Oct– 9:30am	Holy Communion (?)
10 Oct– 10:30am	Pet Service (JR-W)
17 Oct – 10:30am	Family Service (JR-W)
24 Oct– 10:30am	Family Service (JR-W)
31 Oct – 10:30am	Family Service (JR-W)

In September we had our last Hymns for a Summer Evening service. We also had our Harvest Festival service. The fruit and vegetables were donated to the Watton Community fridge at the Crown in Watton. It is designed, primarily, for those on a low income and it enables them to collect fresh goods and store cupboard staples for free. All items are donated by the good people of the Wayland Community from private donations, group collections and supermarket gifts given by local supermarkets.

October’s Pet Service will be great fun. If you don’t have a pet then you can still come along and bring a cuddly toy, which will be a lot quieter! Don’t worry if your dog is a barker. It is probably best not to bring cats as they can become quite stressed.

For your information the following services are being held in October. I look forward to seeing you there.

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

Jean – 07749 870485

Village Hall

Christine Reilly

The stall at Su-Bridge's market on 4 September raised £70 for VH funds. On the 18 September we held the Table Top sale which raised £132.11. As only 2 villagers came forward to sell their unwanted possessions, the rest of the hall was filled with local crafters. Thanks go to the committee members who served the refreshments and all those who made cakes.

Coffee mornings continue every Monday from 10:30am – everyone welcome!

Finally, we would like to thank Grace's family for providing such a sumptuous spread at the VH after the funeral service. It was a wonderful send-off for a very special lady who had served Ovington so well. When Grace retired as Treasurer from the VH committee, her retirement gift was a rose for her garden. It was aptly named "Simply the Best".

If anyone has anything suitable for a tombola or raffle which they would like to donate to the VH, we are collecting items for our stall at the Watton Festive Market at the end of November. Please contact any committee member or bring to the hall on a Monday morning.

Thank you

Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



In August there was 38mm or 1.5"

So far (20 September) we have had 30mm or 1.18"

Parish Council (PC)

Heidi Frary, (Clerk) / Editor

A report derived from the unconfirmed minutes of the PC meeting held on 15 September 2021.

Present: Cllrs Karen Weir (KW – Chair), Timothy Birt (TB), Dave Welsted (DW) and Jeremy Woods (JW).

In attendance: The Clerk, County Councillor Bowes and 8 members of the public

Apologies: Cllr P Bate (PB) and District Councillor Crane

Matters arising from previous minutes

There is no news about the Diocesan Tree Survey. Clerk to request a copy of the report.

Planning

Applications:

3PL/2021/1111/F: Redmoore Meadows, Saham Road, Saham Toney – change of use from agricultural grassland to dog walking / agility area. - no comment

3PL/2021/1043/HOU: Alston Farm, Dereham Road – raising height of roof including new windows to rear and other works. ‘Ovington Parish Council object to this application. The Council have no objection to the expansion as such, however this should be achieved with a less dominant roof. The current plans are for a very large mono-block structure with a hedge partly shielding the building. The roof however, as seen from the road, has a detrimental impact on the setting by dominating the rural visual scene. It also sets a precedent for upward expansion on the adjacent dwelling.

Notifications: 3PL/2021/1029/HOU “Wagtail House”, extension approved

Village/Highways Issues

Surface of the Trod. The Clerk explained that Highways have asked for a map detailing the areas of concern (which has been provided) and will be visiting to make good any necessary works. Councillors have

requested extending this visit to cover other Highways issues and no response has been received to date.

Memorial tree replacement in Crown Crescent, carried forwards

Open Forum:

Residents express concern over the surface of the trod including reduced width and drainage. CC Bowes agreed to speak to our Highways Engineer.

Residents expressed concern over speed and traffic through the village. Issues included: rat running and speeding (one particular vehicle swerved towards a resident). Suggestions involved: attending the next SNAP meeting to report the issue to the police, purchasing a replacement battery for the SAM sign, linking with Shipdham Community Speedwatch, development of a priority area for pedestrians and cyclists (being pursued by C Lewis), extension of speed limits, width / HGV restrictions.

Other issues involved wide agricultural vehicles damaging verges and forcing vehicles off the road, damaged speed sign that has not been repaired and logs on a verge which are now obscured by high grass.

Actions:

- Clerk to inform Councillors of next SNAP meeting date and time
- TB to arrange for replacement SAM sign battery
- TB to ask for Community Speedwatch volunteers in *The Oracle*
- TB to provide George Freeman MP contact details in *The Oracle* for residents to lobby for speed limit assessment. [pg.3]
- JW to arrange a traffic survey to compare with historic survey data as evidence of changes to traffic levels.
- CC Bowes to request signage and other possible mitigations.

Reports

District Councillor and County Councillor reports were received, focussing on difficulties with bin collections (Serco HGV driver shortage) and planning enforcement; further details in official minutes.

Next Meeting

17 November, 7:30pm in the village hall

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Gov.uk

Coronavirus remains a serious health risk – at time of writing, (26 September) there were over 7000 people in hospital with COVID and nearly 1000 deaths a week in the UK. 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 !



Submission deadline for next issue: 23 October

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