

The Ovington Oracle

January, 2022



*Happy
New
Year*

The solstice has been and gone, so ever so slowly the day-light is now increasing, by the middle of January it should be noticeable. The change is not so great with sun-rise, but sun-set is getting later and later.

Perihelion (the earth's closest approach to the sun) on 4 January 2022 at 6:52am.

If people do not believe that mathematics is simple, it is only because they do not realize how complicated life is.

— John von Neumann

Notices:

- Saham Road / Ovington Road will be closed again for 3-days from 11 Jan for an Anglian Water installation at the new Saham Toney housing development.
 - There is no Wayland News for January and February
-

Contents

Notices:.....	1
Church News.....	3
Parish Council (PC).....	4
Gardener's Delight.....	4
Ovington History – accident or ...?.....	4
In Memory of Chris Lewis.....	6
Messages.....	6
Village Hall.....	6
New Year's Day walk near Dereham?.....	7
Coronavirus (COVID-19).....	7
Rainfall.....	8
And finally	8

December Public Village Events

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2 C
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 C
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 C
17	18	19 PC	20	21	22	23 C
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 C
31						

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

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 News

Jean Rockett-Woods (JR-W), Lay Minister

2 Jan – 10:30am	Family Service (JR-W)
9 Jan – 10:30am	Holy Communion (Adrian Bell)
16 Jan– 10:30pm	Family Service (JR-W)
23 Jan – 10:30am	Family Service (JR-W)
30 Jan – 10:30am	Family Service (JR-W)



My Goodness how the year has flown. I hope that, despite the Covid virus, you were able to keep safe and well.

I have been kept busy throughout the year planning services and typing and printing service sheets, the last were for our Carol Service. Despite having to wear masks again to protect each other we

were able to allow The Harmonettes and Quality Corner to go mask free as singing for us would have been difficult for them. They put in so many hours of practice for which we are all grateful as the end result was a fantastic evening's entertainment. Although masked the congregation managed to sing carols and I thank all who contributed towards this special evening. There were refreshments at the end of the service which were prepared by our lovely ladies and which were consumed with gusto (The refreshments, not the ladies!!!).

Of course we do not know how the Omicron variant is going to affect our planned 2022 services at this time, but hopefully with everyone getting vaccinated we will be able to continue with our weekly services in which I hope you will be able to join us.

I have made a request to The Harmonettes and Quality Corner to entertain us during the year at special services, the next one being Easter. But don't let that stop you from attending any of our weekly Sunday morning services. I hope to see you there.

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

Jean – 07749 870485

Parish Council (PC)

Heidi Frary, (Clerk)

Meeting minutes available at:

ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Next Meeting

19 January 7:30pm in the village hall, assuming no COVID restrictions.

Future meetings: 21 Mar, 18 May, 20 July, 21 Sept and 16 Nov

Gardener's Delight

Barry Lambert

Even some country folk have trouble telling a Rook from a Crow which is really easy, or as Dick Bagnall Oakley, the teacher and naturalist of the famous Greshams School, Holt, would have said 'If you see a great old flock of Crows then they are probably Rooks. And if you see a couple of Rooks fly over then they are Crows' which like to nest much lower down, often on their own, while Rooks prefer to nest in 'Rookeries'.

You can tell a Rook from a Crow by the whitish patch, bare of feathers, at the base of the bill. Whereas the crow has an all-black face.

Persecuted for their love of grain and eggs it's often overlooked by the good they do by eating large numbers of Leatherjackets, Chafer Grubs, Cutworms, Wireworms and Mice, being able to swallow mice whole as well as Slugs and Snails.

Ovington History – accident or ...?

Chris Lewis

Once upon a time there lived in Ovington a poultry farmer by the name of Herbert Bambridge. He lived on an eight acre farm with his wife, three daughters, a teenage son and a flock of white Aylesbury ducks together with some pigs and cows. His wife also kept the village shop.

In August 1953 ducks in one section of his farm started dying off in the dozens until he had lost some 400 to a mysterious disease. To add to his troubles Herbert had started to complain of pains in his stomach from early September 1953. A neighbour said that he said to him, 'I can taste those wretched ducks'.

On the morning of 18 September 1953 his wife was due to appear in court accused of receiving stolen cigarettes. Herbert was known to be awkward and stubborn but that morning he was unusually good tempered. He had complained about boiling pains in his stomach on the day before his death but had been eating prodigiously and, on the night before his death he had eaten a huge dinner of steak and kidney pudding.

At 7:20am Herbert had a cup of tea before having his breakfast and immediately collapsed into a chair. His wife said that he had looked pale and ill after drinking the tea. She then telephoned for a doctor who arrived about 15 minutes later, but Herbert died within a few seconds of him reaching his side.

His post mortem examination showed that he had a little over a grain of strychnine in his organs and the pathologist said that that indicated that he must have swallowed at least two grains. One grain in crystal form would have covered a thumbnail.

Herbert's wife said that she had taken out a £118 insurance policy on his life some time previously and added that she had had no indication that he was worried to the point of attempting suicide. She went on to say that it was not until after his death that she learned that he had taken out two additional £500 insurance policies.

At the inquest his wife said that Herbert kept a number of rat poisons about the house, saying 'He was very careless about them and would put them in silly places and then forget where they were. She added that when 'two fat pigs and a dog and a small pony died it was thought their deaths were from poison'.

The Coroner decided that there was no evidence of foul play.

In Memory of Chris Lewis

Editor

With great sadness I have to report that Chris Lewis died on Christmas Eve at 5:30pm.

Chris played a full part in the village for 42 years, being involved with the allotments, the Church, Parish Council, and more recently his cycling escapades. Chris regularly contributed to the Oracle with fascinating articles about village history and people, the last of which is in this copy. I especially remember his spectacular efforts (and crashes) in the Wacky Scrappy Gravity Race. He will be greatly missed.



Messages

Rod Rumsby

With Thanks

Rod thanks all the lovely people who have sent or delivered Christmas cards to me this year. Following a long established tradition I shall give a donation to a selected charity instead of Christmas cards. This year, following several instances of the dreaded big "C" causing a devastating loss of loved ones and serious illnesses, I feel that particular charity would be appropriate. So thank you all again. Hope your festive season goes well and that we all have good health in the New Year.

Village Hall

Christine Reilly

Thank you to everyone who has supported the village hall in any way during the year. At the Festive Market in Watton on the 28 November, we raised £232.10 which was not bad considering the freezing conditions! With the resurgence of Covid, the committee reluctantly took the decision not to continue with the Monday coffee mornings until further notice, but we would rather keep everyone safe. Keep an eye on the noticeboards as we will put up a notice when it is safe for the coffee mornings to recommence.

A Happy New Year to everyone.

New Year's Day walk near Dereham?

Ken Hawkins

Dereham Walkers are Welcome:

Walks are being planned for 2022, starting with a medium length walk on 1 January, finishing with seasonal refreshments at the newly opened Ellenor-Fenn garden (adjacent to QD).



For full details please see the web-site at

DerehamWaW.org.uk

or for any questions contact Ken Hawkins:

Email: ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk,

Mob: 07561 813243.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Editor

Provisional data suggests that the Omicron variant of COVID may result in less than half the number of hospitalisations per case, however it is particularly infectious and so there may be many more cases, putting the NHS at risk.

The best thing anyone can do is to get fully vaccinated (all three doses) and encourage friends and neighbours to do the same.

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 !

Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



November total was 54.5mm or 2.14"

Up until 20 December: 72.5mm or 2.8"

And finally ...

Tim

'Ring Out, Wild Bells'

by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Read full poem at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ring_Out%2C_Wild_Bells

Submission deadline for next issue: 24 January
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