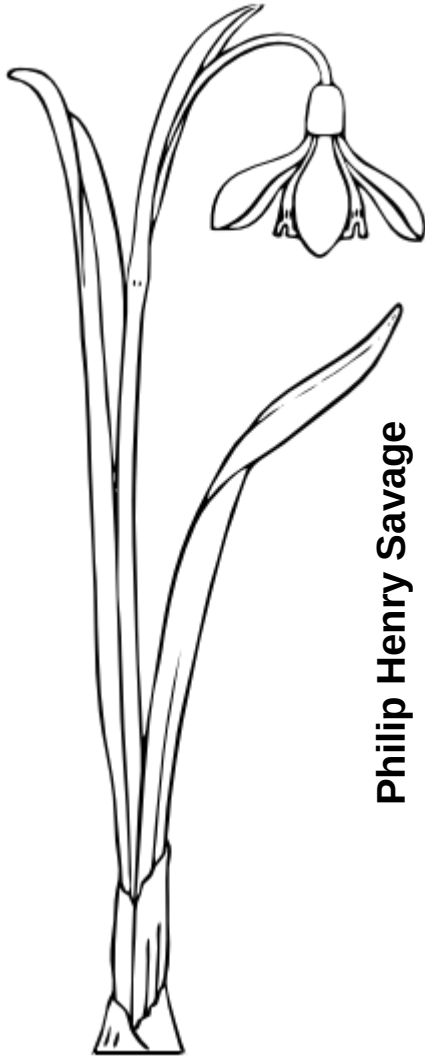


The Ovington Oracle

February, 2022

February derives from the Roman month Februarius was named after the Latin term februum, which means "purification", via the purification ritual Februa held on 15 February (full moon) in the old lunar Roman calendar.



Philip Henry Savage

(1868-1899)

When February

When February sun shines cold
There comes a day when in the air
The wings of winter slow unfold
And show the golden summer there.

4 more verses at:

www.poemhunter.com/poem/when-february

Notices:

- Shipdham Road in Carbrooke will be closed for three days between 8 and 9 February. There may be increased traffic through Ovington
- There is no Wayland News for February

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February Public Village Events

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

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

6 Feb – 10:30am	Holy Communion (Adrian Bell)
13 Feb– 10:30pm	Family Service (JR-W)
20 Feb – 10:30am	Family Service (JR-W) Followed by tea/coffee and cakes
27 Feb – 10:30am	Family Service (JR-W)



Unfortunately I am starting my message with sad news. On 24 December our brother and friend Chris Lewis passed away. We honoured him with a special service on Monday 17 January. Many friends came to pay their last respects to a man who had done much in our village.

Now for some cheerier news. On the third Sunday of each month we will be having a **tea/coffee and cakes** time following a short morning Family Service to which you are all invited. The cakes at our last coffee morning were absolutely fabulous, or so I have been told as I avoid wheat/gluten and dairy as consuming such morsels upsets my rather delicate stomach. I am catered for with gluten and dairy-free cakes so I can't complain. Please do give us a visit. The next *coffee and cakes* morning will be held on Sunday 20 February.

Now something for our village children. I am aiming to start 'Messy Church' during school holidays. This is not a time of making a mess of our church building, but a time for giving our children the opportunity to come along and enjoy themselves, and we will be making art work; cooking; exploring; and storytelling, just as we did for 7 local schools when our church was restored by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Please keep an eye on our Village Notice Board for these events. I am hoping to plan a day during the Half Term Holiday, but this will depend on how many helpers I am able to get to volunteer! If you would like to be a helper then please let me know.

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

Jean – 07749 870485

Parish Council (PC)

Heidi Frary, (Clerk) / additional by TB

A report based on the draft minutes of the PC meeting on 19 January

Present: Cllrs Karen Weir (KW), P Bate (PB), T Birt (TB), Dave Welsted (DW) and Jeremy Woods (JW), Clerk and one member of the public.

Apologies: County Councillor Bowes (CC-B), District Councillor Crane

Correspondence

A further email about the condition of the trod (especially Watton side of bridge) has been received. CC-B has agreed to a site visit. It was suggested a PC representative also attend.

An email concerning dog fouling on the field adjacent the allotments was noted. It was agreed to purchase some 'clean up after your dog' signs and put a reminder in *The Oracle*.

Planning

3PL/2021/0061/UC. Conversion of agricultural building next to Alston Farm (on the A1075) to dwelling using permitted development rights was refused.

Accounts

Rent received will be paid in by TB

Payments and current financial position against budget were reviewed and agreed.

Budget – Precept for 2022-23

After detailed discussion Councillors agreed to set the budget at £5400, which equates to an increase of £2.59 per year for a band-D property.

Village and Highways Issues

A resident has expressed concern about large low hanging branch across the road on the large oak tree on entry to the village along The Street. It was noted this tree is subject to a *Tree Preservation Order*. Clerk to contact landowner to request confirmation it is inspected and healthy.

It was reported that the logs on the side of Carbrooke Rd have not been removed. Clerk to contact CCB to request discussion with Highways Engineer.

Open Forum

A member of the public explained that a joint meeting to discuss the Queen's Jubilee was planned and a representative from the PC was invited.

TB (as District Councillor) reported that he was still unable to discuss the EDP report about Barnham Broom Golf Club as the whole subject was being treated as confidential. He has made representation to the ICO complaining about the over use of 'commercially confidential' to restrict any discussion. Furthermore, he reported that Local Plan review meetings will also be treated as entirely confidential and he has again objected.

Next Meeting

23 Mar 7:30pm in the village hall, assuming no COVID restrictions.

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

PC Documents:

ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

St Valentine's Day

Barry Lambert

As children in the 1950's and early 1960's we always looked forward to a knock on the door, which would mean that "Old Father Valentine", as we all called him, had called and left a present on the doorstep. This could be repeated two or three times in the early evening, with a bar of chocolate wrapped up in newspaper to the size of a small suitcase. I remember a knock on my front door, finding a shoebox neatly done up with string, taking it indoors, placing it on the table and on opening it to find it full of pig muck and being told by my father to throw it out of the back door before it spilled out on the table !

Nowadays this is mostly forgotten, with thousands of red roses being grown in various parts of the world to be given to wives and girlfriends. And the knock on the door forgotten in the mists of time.

Dog Poo

Editor

There have been reports of dog poo appearing again! This is especially disappointing when it has been found in the field alongside the allotments. There is no right of access to this field, the farmer has kindly allowed the outside edge



to be used, but on condition that dog poo is cleared up.

Failure to clear up will damage the hay crop and may force the farmer to exclude access!

Please clear it up !

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Editor

We are over the peak infection of the Omicron COVID variant, but levels of infection and hospital occupancy are both still at a high level.

The Government have returned to “Plan A” and removed almost all restrictions:

- You no longer need to wear a face covering, but consider wearing one in crowded, enclosed spaces where you may come into contact with people you do not normally meet.
- You no longer have to show your NHS COVID Pass at venues and events.

Many supermarkets and other places are requesting we continue to wear a mask. To help get community infection down this seems eminently sensible.

Gardener's Delight

Barry Lambert

Autumn Fruiting Raspberries

In established rows cut all canes down to the ground and mulch with compost after clearing any weeds.

Black Currants

After planting, cut back all the shoots to within an inch of soil level. The bushes should not be allowed to fruit in the first season after planting (1 year old bushes).

Red and White Currants

Winter. On a two year old bush cut each branch back by half to an outside bud. New branches will then be formed. Subsequent winter pruning will depend on the growth made. Shorten leading shoots by about half and cut back the lateral to two buds of their bases.

In Memory of Chris Lewis

Mike

I would like to say a very few words about the very sad news that Chris Lewis passed away on Christmas Eve.

My deepest sympathy goes to his family Lyndia, Virginia and Guy.

I was one of the lucky people in Ovington to have Chris as a friend.

He was an amazing man, computer genius, lawnmower repair man, allotment maestro, churchyard historian, churchyard grass cutter, member of Ovington cyclists, etc, etc.

He would help anybody at anytime, especially at the allotments, where any new members could ask for his help and advice.

Every year his plot would win prizes, and he would be seen most afternoons (subject to the weather) working on his plot, or sitting in his shed with a cup of tea listening to the news or cricket (or sleeping !).

He always raised The Union Jack when in attendance. We always joked that 'The Allotment King was in attendance'.

Every summer he was available to cut the church grass and clean around the gravestones. The lovely condition of the churchyard was mainly due to his efforts.

He was a keen cyclist, and often joined friends on a leisurely cycle around adjoining villages. He was always last, but never complained.

He was also a member of the famous *Quality Corner*. Ovington's answer to Kings College Cambridge Male Choir. This consisted of five not very good singers and Chris. He had a lovely deep voice always managing to keep the rest of us just in tune. He had been practising with us this Christmas for the Carol Service in the Church. Unfortunately he became very ill just before the service and could not attend. We tried our best at the carol service, but it was not the same without him. Although very ill he texted us to "Break a Leg" and wished us luck.

Ovington will miss you Chris. For myself I am honoured to have known you and been one of your many friends in Ovington.

Rest in peace, Mike

Ovington Allotment Association

Mike Howes

Another year is over on the allotment and the soil breathes a sigh of relief that it is not being pushed and pummelled around for a few months feeling a little revived with a thick layer of rich horse manure kindly donated by Mark.

It has been a good year, with the majority of plots being lovingly maintained rendering, generally, a good harvest.

We welcomed several new members this year and we hope they will enjoy their time with us and take away with them the satisfaction of growing their own vegetables.

During the last year a new communal area has been set aside for the allotment members. A vacant plot with a large shed present was selected. An extension was built on to the shed to increase the size to protect us from the elements. A large area was also cleared of bark chippings to allow for table and chairs.

This has been a life-saver during the COVID pandemic where friends could meet every Monday morning for coffee and cakes, cooked by *The Ovington Ladies*, subject to social distancing. Unfortunately the Village Hall had been closed for their usual coffee mornings due to restrictions of meeting inside.

In August The Allotment Committee had its annual produce show. This was very successful with a very good turn-out and very healthy competition. Congratulations go to all the winners.

My thanks go to the Committee members for all their help during the past year, keeping the grass pathways clear, maintaining the hedges and for any maintenance required, especially thanks go to Stewart, Chris, Don and Richard.

Must stop now as the sun has just come out and I need to dig up my leeks for dinner.



Messages

Rod Rumsby

With Thanks

Rod decided that following on from a family decision made a few years back, he would not send Christmas cards again in 2021, instead make a donation to a suitable charity. Having regard to the disease that has seen us lose loved ones and good friends over the past few years it was decided to give a donation to Cancer Research. This amounted to 174 pounds; with gift aid at 25% this brought the total up to 217 pounds. Thank you again to all those people who sent me cards, brightened up my home greatly.

Lyndia Lewis

For sale: Pedal Assist Electric Bike

For sale, Chris Lewis's *Viking Harrier* folding electric bike; an independent review and specification available here:

www.e-bikereview.uk/viking-harrier-electric-bicycle

Offers over £150.

Lyndia 01953-882222

[*Editor: I've ridden the bike and it was in excellent working condition, better than my exact same model.]*

Village Hall

Christine Reilly

Save the evening of Thursday 24 February in your diary and come to the village hall AGM at 7:00pm. Find out how this village amenity is run, give us your ideas and stay for a chat and a cuppa after the meeting.

The village hall will be open for coffee again on Monday 7 February from 10:30am. A hot drink plus cake will only cost you £1 and will help raise funds to keep the hall functioning.

On Sunday 6 February you are invited to the village hall from 3:00pm onwards to tell us what you want to see happening in Ovington. In particular, we would like to know how you would like to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in June – a picnic perhaps, or a BBQ, or an afternoon tea? All ideas are welcome and we need to start planning it as soon as possible. We would like this to be a whole village, family event and we hope to include all village organisations as a joint effort. After all, it is a once in a lifetime celebration, so let's make it memorable! If you have some ideas but are unable to attend, please contact me by phone (01953 885848) or email me at reilly.cande@btinternet.com

As for the village hall programme for the rest of the year, it looks as if we should be able to return to near normal. If you are new to Ovington, the types of events we used to put on pre-pandemic include: live theatre, live music, quizzes, suppers, afternoon teas, soup lunches, BBQs and a Christmas bazaar. We are open to new ideas, just let us know what you would like to attend.

Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



December total was 93mm or 3.6".

The total for the whole year, 2021, was 883mm or 35", should float your boat.

Up until 21 January we have had 26.5mm or just over 1".

And finally ...

Rod

>> An elderly couple came into the local restaurant sat down and perused the menu, after a little while the waitress came over and took their order. When their meals were delivered the gentleman tucked in eagerly and seemed to be enjoying his meal. Meanwhile the lady just sat there looking at her plate of food and didn't touch it.

The waitress became a little concerned and approached the lady and asked if there was something wrong with her meal as she hadn't touched it. The lady looked up and said "No it looks fine, I'm just waiting for the teeth!!!"



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