

# The Orvington Oracle

March, 2022

## **Village Litter pick!**

I understand the litter pick equipment may be available to borrow again, which means we could have a village picking session.

I have a queried which weekend the kit may be available. I am waiting to hear back but keep an eye on the notice board in case it is in March. Seems more likely it will be in April in which case details will be in the next Oracle.



The clocks change on Sunday 27 March, being spring the clocks 'spring' forward an hour thus giving us lighter evenings.

## **Cost of Living Support**

Following recent rises in food, energy prices, national insurance, and a reduction in Universal Credit these contacts may be useful for anyone who who is in need and struggling to pay their household bills. These are some organisations who can offer free independent advice:

Norfolk Citizens Advice Bureau – 0800 144 88 48 – [www.ncab.org.uk](http://www.ncab.org.uk)

Christians Against Poverty – 0800 328 00 06 – [www.capuk.org](http://www.capuk.org)

National Energy Action – 0800 304 7159 – [www.nea.org.uk](http://www.nea.org.uk)

Norfolk County Council – 0344 800 8020 – [www.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk)

Go to the website and type in Norfolk Assistance Scheme. This scheme can provide emergency financial help for eligible people.

Breckland Council – 01362 656870 – [www.breckland.gov.uk](http://www.breckland.gov.uk)

The household support fund has been paused at this time and I am waiting to hear if this will re-open in the future. Anyone suffering extreme hardship can seek assistance by way of a discretionary exceptional hardship payment.

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### March Public Village Events

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	<b>5</b> C	<b>6</b> C
<b>7</b> VH	8	9	10	11	12	<b>13</b> C
<b>14</b> VH	15	16	17	18	19	<b>20</b> C
<b>21</b> VH	22	<b>23</b> PC	24	25	<b>26</b> p3	<b>27</b> C
<b>28</b> VH	29	30	31			

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

National COVID-19: [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Village Information: [ovington-village.org.uk](http://ovington-village.org.uk)

Parish Council: [ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home](http://ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home)

Oracle back copies: [ovington.org.uk/oracle](http://ovington.org.uk/oracle)

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## Earth Hour

Jeremy Woods

26 March 8:30 – 9:30pm

Turn your lights off for Earth Hour, for more details see:

[www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org)

This is a world celebrated event and Ovington was the first community in the UK to make it happen! We will be having another outside gathering this year, weather permitting!

Taking place between 8:30 and 9:30pm at the top of the field behind the Old Crown, 2 The Street. Access via *The Crescent*, where the white van sits! Follow the dog track to the top of the field. Alternatively enter from the Allotment path along the adjacent West End field. The village Beacon will be lit for an hour! Please bring any refreshments.

For further information, contact Jeremy at 2 The Street 01953 883953. See you there!

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## Jackdaws

Barry Lambert



One of the smaller members of the Crow family, and I believe the most intelligent of all the “Crow” family. Happy to nest in a wide variety of locations such as “Ovington Church Tower” and Rectory chimneys (when unoccupied), Holly trees or Barns. Very sociable, often feeding in mixed flocks with Rooks on the ground. Easy to recognise by their Blue/Grey heads and steely blue eyes. Easy to tame from young birds. They

like to go into open windows and dressing tables to sort out any shiny objects, before leaving their calling card and flying off. They can recognise and fly to you from anywhere. And of all the birds I kept as pets in the 1950’s nothing can compare with the Jackdaw.

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## Church News

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

6 Mar – 10:30am	Holy Communion (Adrian Bell)
13 Mar – 10:30pm	Family Service (JR-W)
20 Mar – 10:30am	Café Church (JR-W) Followed by tea/coffee and cakes
27 Mar – 10:30am	Mothering Sunday Service (JR-W)
3 Apr – 10:30am	Holy Communion (Adrian Bell) Followed by APCM



Wow! What stormy weather we had during February with Electricity power cuts.

Fortunately Jeremy and I were able to boil a kettle and fill Thermos Flasks ready for our first Sunday Café Church. We will be holding Café Church services usually on the third Sunday of each month, but during April we will

hold Café Church on the second Sunday as we are holding a special service on 17 April to celebrate Easter Sunday with our two groups of singers, the Harmonettes and Quality Corner. If you have not heard them sing then do come along and enjoy the service with us.

So what is Café Church? Café Church is a service with a difference. Seated round tables, instead of sat in rows, we drink coffee or tea, eat cakes and biscuits, and discuss faith. It is still a service; we sing a few songs, hear a bit of talk, say some prayers, but we are relaxed about it all. Why not give it a try? Babies and Children, of course, are very welcome.

During January we held Monday coffee mornings in the church as the Village hall was closed for these during that month. We will continue to run a Coffee morning in our village church on the first Saturday of each month. Of course, your children and Grand-children are very welcome to join us.

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

With love in Christ

Jean – 07749 870485

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## Parish Council (PC)

*Heidi Frary, (Clerk)*

### PC Documents at:

[ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home](http://ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home)

### Next Meeting

23 Mar 7:30pm in the village hall.

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

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## Gardener's Delight

*Barry Lambert*

### Early Potatoes in a Poly-Tunnel

The soil in Poly Tunnels should have been dug and any manure added as well as well watered in preparation for the planting in early March of seed potatoes which have been set up in trays for the last month. Mine are Swift, Rocket, or Javelin which are a little later. Not forgetting they will need protecting with fleece from late frosts. Also Greenhouses can be prepared for the planting of tomatoes in May/June, preparing as above.

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## Happy Birthday !

*Jean Rockett-Woods*

Are you celebrating your birthday this month and are you keeping quiet about it?

If you do have a Birthday this month I would very much like to wish you a **very Happy Birthday!**



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## Village Hall

Christine Reilly

The village hall AGM took place on Thursday 24 February with all 9 committee members and one member of the public present. As everyone was willing to continue in office for another year, the whole committee was re-elected unanimously as follows:

Chairman: Ed Reilly

Vice Chair: Jan Cockburn

Secretary: Marie Ana Cave

Treasurer: Christine Reilly

Head of Maintenance: Don Clark

Other Committee Members: David Welsted (representing Parish Council & PCC), Bob Cave, Sam and Mike Howes.

The Chairman and Treasurer presented their reports which were accepted by all present, together with the accounts for 2021.

At our next meeting at the beginning of April we hope to put together a programme of events for the rest of the year.

Just a reminder to anyone buying heating oil: if you purchase from *Rix Petroleum*, the village hall will benefit. Thanks for your support.

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## Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



January's total didn't change from the figure in last months *Oracle* remaining at 26.5mm or just over 1"

February is turning out slightly damper, 64mm or 2.5" and it's still raining and blowing as of the 21st.

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# Coronavirus (COVID-19)

*Editor*

Clearly with Omicron being less severe and most of the more vulnerable population fully vaccinated it is reasonable to relax restrictions.

On 16 February the Prime Minister announced that all COVID laws will be dropped almost immediately, with no requirement to isolate if infected or stay at home. Testing is no longer required and lateral flow tests will no longer be freely available from April.

However the SAGE 105 minutes (Government Advisers) don't appear entirely convinced. See:

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/sage-meetings-february-2022](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sage-meetings-february-2022)

You may have noticed the announcement was made at Prime Ministers Questions rather than at the usual Downing Street press conference where the Chief Medical Officer (Sir Chris Whitty) and Chief Scientific Advisor (Sir Patrick Vallance) would have been on hand to support the decision.

Government COVID guidance is available at:

[www.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

It starts "COVID-19 remains a risk". However, almost everything is now down to personal responsibility/choice but exactly how individuals are to make informed decisions remains unclear.

The Government COVID dashboard has become unreliable, so I will be relying on the ONS infection survey, which lags by a couple of weeks but is a 'gold standard' in terms of data quality.

## And finally ...

*Rod+Tim*

- >> My relationship with Whisky is on the rocks!!
- >> The secret of enjoying a good wine:
  1. Open the bottle to allow it to breathe.
  2. If it does not look like it's breathing, give it mouth to mouth.
- >> Twinkle twinkle little star, point me to the nearest bar.
- >> Maths Teacher: "If I have three 70cl bottles in one hand and two in the other hand, what do I have?"  
Student: "A drinking problem."
- >> Two men walked into a bar, the third one ducked!
- >> My doctor told me to watch my drinking, so now I drink in front of a mirror.



### **Submission deadline for next issue: 22 March**

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