

The Ovington Oracle

April, 2022

Village Litter Pick 2022!



The epidemic has meant this village event has been 'postponed' for the last two years although some stalwarts have been out regularly litter picking by themselves; this is an opportunity for young and old, please come and help give the village a spring clean as one big collective effort.

Equipment will be provided, please wear suitable 'old' clothes with stout shoes or boots. Children welcome but must be under the care of an accompanying adult.

**Saturday, 2 April,
10:30am**

Meet at the village sign in The Street

I understand that refreshments will be available afterwards at the Village Hall, mmmm, cake!

The vernal equinox occurred on 20 March so we now officially have more daylight than night-time. With the clocks advancing an hour and the recent sunny weather, life in the village is good!



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April Public Village Events

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2 (p1)	3 C
4 VH	5	6	7	8	9	10 C
11 VH	12	13	14	15 C	16	17 C
18 VH	19	20	21	22	23	24 C
25 VH	26	27	28	29	30	

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

In Memory of: Chris Springford

John Hardy



Chris Springford's funeral is on Wednesday 30 March at 2:00pm at St John the Evangelist, Ovington.

Chris and his wife Connie while living in Ovington were heavily committed to our church and were very determined to preserve its history and keep it open for worship. About ten years ago he approached me to see if I would assist to help raise funds to carry out urgent restoration work and work with him.

We carried out a survey with everybody in the village and they all resoundingly wished to see the church remain open and functional and as part of the village fabric. Many villagers indicated though not attending regularly they needed it to celebrate happiness, grief, and special occasions and a place to go to.

Eventually we received substantial Heritage Lottery Funds (HLF) for restoration work on the condition there was a community project. Chris was extremely good at dealing with the diocese, architects, HLF reporting and historians, while I did the community project to help the education and development of local school children.

Many hundreds of children from local schools were bused in every Friday to take part in structured programmes which included the environment, history, art, drama, and story writing and took place in the church, church yard and village hall. That all was possible with the very kind help of twenty to thirty voluntary helpers every week mainly from the Ovington community. That legacy has been a resounding success.

The other legacy was the restoration of the poor fabric of the church which Chris followed closely. Furthermore he got additional funds that allowed the restoration of certain artefacts within the church to be carried out. He wished to see the church evolve more into a hub of the community having installed screens and projecting equipment along with improved kitchen facilities and flexible seating. Ovington has a church fit for many more years to come.

Our church remains today due to his perseverance to see it restored and remain open to the Ovington community.

Church News

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

3 Apr – 10:30am	Holy Communion (Adrian Bell) Followed by APCM
10 Apr – 10:30am	Café Church (JR-W) Followed by tea/coffee and cakes
15 Apr – 10:30am	Good Friday Meditation (JR-W) Followed by hot-cross buns & tea/coffee
16 Apr – 7:30pm	<u>Saham Toney Church</u> Service of Light
17 Apr – 10:30am	Easter Sunday (JR-W) Followed by tea/coffee and cakes
24 Apr – 10:30am	Family Service (JR-W)
1 May – 10:30am	Holy Communion (Adrian Bell)



We had some lovely sunny weather in March so I was able to get on renovating the garden at The Crown.

We had our second Café Church during March. We all got so engrossed that Café Church went on longer than planned. We enjoyed a cup or two of coffee/tea and

enjoyed home-made cakes. Do come along and join us on 10 April at 10:30am.

There will be a special Service of Light which will be held on 16 April at Saham Toney Church at 7:30pm.

We are holding a special service on 17 April to celebrate Easter Sunday with our wonderful group of singers The Harmonettes. If you have not heard them sing then do come along and enjoy the service with us. We will be enjoying Tea/Coffee and home-made cakes after the service. An Easter Egg hunt will be laid on for children attending the service.

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

With love in Christ

Jean – 07749 870485

Parish Council (PC)

Heidi Frary, (Clerk)

PC Documents at:

ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

A full report from the short 23 March meeting will be published next month.

Advanced Notice of Next Meetings:

In May we have the Annual Parish Meeting where representatives from the village organisations are invited to give a report to the meeting. Reports will be invited from local organisations including:

- Jubilee committee (?)
- Parish Council
- Village Hall
- Fuel Trust
- Ovington Church
- Allotment Association
- Ovington Oracle
- District Councillor
- County Councillor
- Concluding with ... The Ovington Navy !

After a short break there will be the PC AGM

18 May 7:30pm in the village hall.

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

Platinum Jubilee Plans

Sue Horton

A small committee of volunteers got together to put a programme of events together for the four days of the platinum jubilee, taking on views and suggestions from people in the village.

The programme so far is as follows:

Thursday 2 June

Light the Beacon 7:30pm at the Village Hall

Beacon to be lit at 9:15pm in line with timing across the country. BYO drink and nibbles.

Friday 3 June

Judging of the best decorated house

Get planning and decorate your house in advance of the Friday. A prize will be awarded at the Sunday BBQ.

Saturday 4 June

Children's picnic and games 2:00pm in Crown Crescent

Children to make and decorate a crown to wear to the picnic. Prize for the best crown. The village will provide picnic and ice cream. Parents, please provide anything extra you wish, to cater for any special dietary needs your children may have.

Sunday 5 June

Platinum Jubilee BBQ in the Village Hall grounds from 2:00pm

The village will provide BBQ & ice cream. BYO drink & anything else. Join in the games (or watch the fun). Slide show in the village hall. There will be music and possibly some karaoke! Dress up if you wish. And prize award for the best decorated house.

Thursday to Sunday

Church open for people to view the display of flowers & memorabilia.

Unfortunately, there is no funding available from Breckland Council. The Village Hall, Allotment Association and Parish Council have donated £100 each to help fund these plans.

Help Please !

We were hoping that there may be someone living in the village that has their own business or work for a business, that might be willing to sponsor this event, or perhaps donate a voucher for the best decorated house prize.

We also need a couple of people from Crown Crescent to help with planning and running the children's party.

We welcome any ideas you may have to feed into any of the events. And would like to borrow any old photos or memorabilia, to help with the production of a slide show and to display in the church.

Please contact: **Sue Horton on 07392391236**
or sue.horton1958@gmail.com

To help us plan, a couple of the committee will knock on doors (across a weekend TBA) to ask you what you would like to participate in, gather any ideas and get names and ages of children wishing to attend the children's party.

Village History: Joan Miller

Barry Lambert

Born Joan Parfitt, Joan was born at what is now No.5 The Street, Ovington, in 1929. On marriage to Reggie they lived at Church Farm where they grew a large acreage of Cambridge Favourite strawberries, which were always for sale locally in the now old fashioned straw punnets. They were sold from an old British Railway carriage with any surplus fruit being sent to local markets by steam train from Watton station. Joan also spent much of the summer school holidays taking me, and her brother Derek, Black Currant picking on local farms where the fruit would be put into 2lb punnets to be weighed. A hot sticky job in the summers of the 1950s.

Village Hall (VH)

Christine Reilly

Coffee morning Ukraine appeal raised £105 for the Disasters Emergency Committee. This was match funded by the VH, so a total of £210 was donated to the appeal. Thanks to everyone for their generosity.

Gardener's Delight

Barry Lambert

Planting Onion Sets

Now is an ideal time for the planting of onion sets and, if like me you have trouble with blackbirds pulling the onions out of the soil, you may like to try the following:-

Each tiny bulb has a strawy shoot which you cut off, being careful not to damage the emerging shoot. When planting take out a shallow drill with the corner of a hoe. Place each onion firmly in the drill and cover completely with soil and firm along the row with the back of a spade. A light dressing of Sulphate of Potash is also beneficial.

Tomato seed can be sown in a heated propagator or in the coming weeks, as can early lettuce for planting in a cold frame as can Hispi Spring Cabbage.

Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



February 2022. Total was 90mm or 3.5", rather a lot for a short month.

When I was a lad, a day or two back now. there was a saying "February fill dyke" and I took it to mean that Feb was likely to be a very wet month.

However a wise old man in the village, [there's always one] said it meant that hopefully following a wet autumn and a lot of winter snow, the dykes, rivers and ponds would be full of water by Feb, which ensured good growing conditions for spring sown crops.

Getting back to the original subject, the rainfall to 20 March was 32mm or 1.25".

Please write something !

Editor

This page is waiting for you.

Could you write a report for the Oracle?

- Been somewhere unusual?
- Grown something different?
- Found a gem in a local shop?
- Maybe you have recycled/re-purposed an object?
- Discovered a great recipe?

Share it with us ... interesting snippets from real life add greatly to *The Ovington Oracle*, just 150 words makes an half page story.

As if by magic, this little space filling observation from Christine Reilly after proof reading:

It happens every year! We have a spell of warm spring-like weather and someone in the media says:

“Ne’re cast a clout ‘til May be out”.

They imply that this means the end of May, when in fact it refers to the May (Hawthorn) blossom. This is good news for those who do not wish to wear their thermals until June!

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Editor

There have been multiple cases of COVID in the village, while the vaccine has done a superb job of reducing its lethality, COVID can still be a very unpleasant experience. Stay safe, protect yourself and others.

Government COVID guidance is available at:

www.gov.uk/coronavirus

It starts “COVID-19 remains a risk”. As almost everything is now down to personal responsibility/choice it isn't clear how exactly how individuals are to make informed decisions especially as Lateral Flow Tests are not going to be available free-of-charge.

And finally ...

Rod

- >> For almost twenty years Bill had had to live with this large, old woman who was such a busy body it drove him mad. One day he could stand it no longer, so he turned to his wife and said. "I can't stand your mother a minute longer"



"My mother!" replied his wife. "I thought she was YOUR mother" !!!

- >> The pub door suddenly flew open and in rushed a very red faced man. He nervously asked the assembled crowd whether any of them owned a large black cat with a white collar. No one spoke up. He then asked the question again getting even more agitated. Still no-one answered his question. "Oh blimey" stuttered the man "I must have run over the Vicar".

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