

# The Ovington Oracle

May, 2022



**Last minute news:** see the box on page 3  
Creative Arts East and 'Kick in the Head Productions' are bringing "Choice Grenfell" to the village on 22 May

Curious history of the month of May.

Its origin is widely accepted to derive from 'Maia' the Greek goddess of spring. May was the third month of the ancient Roman calendar, but Julius Caesar's reform moved January and February to the beginning of the year, therefore May moved from the third to the fifth month. Julius Caesar didn't quite get this right because September (sept being 7) October (oct being 8), November (nov being 9) and December (dec being 10) are all now in the wrong place!

Incidentally, there used to be Roman months "Quintilis (5) and Sextilis (6)

Local elections take place elsewhere in the County on 5 May but there are no standard timetabled elections in the Breckland area this time. Next year we will elect Parish, Town and District Councillors.



## Contents

Village Hall (VH).....	3
Notice Board.....	4
Funeral of Mr Rednall.....	4
Church News.....	5
Litter Pick Success.....	6
Privet Hawk Moth Caterpillars.....	7
Platinum Jubilee Plans.....	8
Parish Council (PC).....	10
Rainfall.....	12
And finally .....	12

## May Village Events

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						<b>1</b> C
<b>2</b> VH	3	4	5	6	<b>7</b> C	<b>8</b> C
<b>9</b> VH	10	<b>11</b> p4	12	13	14	<b>15</b> C
<b>16</b> VH	17	<b>18</b> PC	19	20	21	<b>22</b> VH&C
<b>23</b> VH	24	25	26	27	28	<b>29</b> C
<b>30</b> VH	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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## Village Hall (VH)

*Christine Reilly*

At a recent meeting the village hall committee decided an outline plan for the rest of 2022. Firstly we are renewing our membership of Creative Arts East in order to bring some live entertainment to Ovington. They will be publishing a menu of what's available for the autumn in the middle of May. The choices are slightly limited for us, as a smaller venue, but there is usually some live theatre and music on offer. Hopefully, more details next month.

There will be a quiz evening at the village hall on Friday 15 July, incorporating a ploughman's supper and raffle. Further dates for your diaries are: Friday 21 October – Curry Night; 19 November – our traditional Bazaar. Depending on the weather, we may be able to get out the BBQ during the summer, so keep your fingers crossed and the beers chilled.

We have been given the opportunity by Creative Arts East, due to a cancellation elsewhere, to put on a live show in the village hall on **Sunday 22 May at 5:00pm.**

'Kick in the Head Productions' will be performing their acclaimed show:

**"Choice Grenfell"** – a tribute to the late Joyce Grenfell

Featuring her monologues, songs and letters which give a fascinating and entertaining insight into the life of this legendary comedienne. The show is approximately 2 hours long, plus an intermission for tea and coffee. As this is as a result of a cancellation, we are able to offer tickets at a reduced price of only £7.50 per seat which represents remarkable value for a live show. There will be posters and flyers around the village, hopefully by the end of April. Tickets are available from me, from the VH on Monday mornings or on the door, but please ring me to check availability so I can reserve you a ticket. Don't miss this first show after lockdown – come and have a great evening out!

Christine 01953 885848 / 07724085949  
or [reilly.cande@btinternet.com](mailto:reilly.cande@btinternet.com)

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## Notice Board

*Village*

### **Cat care**

We're going away on holiday in the summer and were wondering if there is anyone in the village who know us, that would be willing to pop in twice a day to feed our cat. We live on The Street. If you think this is something you could do then email me on [bethmccullagh@gmail.com](mailto:bethmccullagh@gmail.com) and I can let you know the dates that we're away.

Thank you Beth & Dave

### **For Sale**

- Raleigh gentleman's bike, new saddle, new tyres, panniers ... £30
- Falcon Nomad gentleman's bike, new saddle new tyres, panniers ... £30
- 2-man tent for sale used once, complete still in bag ... £40

Please call me if you are interested 01953 882222

Thank you, Lyndia Lewis

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## Funeral of Mr Rednall

*Jean Rockett-Woods*



A funeral service at Ovington church has been arranged for Mr. Rednall who passed from this life last month. It will be held on 11 May at 2:00pm followed by an interment in the churchyard. The Revd Stephen Thorp will conduct the service.

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## Church News

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

1 May – 10:30am	Holy Communion (Adrian Bell)
7 May – 10:30am	Coffee Morning – all welcome
8 May – 10:30am	Family Service (JR-W)
15 May – 10:30am	Café Church (JR-W) Followed by tea/coffee and cakes
22 May – 10:30am	Rogation Sunday (JR-W)
29 May – 10:30am	Family Service (JR-W)
4 June	Flower Festival



Again during April we had some lovely sunny weather. I was able to get on renovating the garden at The Old Crown despite having a bad fall which put me in hospital for 4 days, including 24 hours in A&E. Thanks to some wonderful prayers I am on the mend.

We will be holding a coffee morning on Saturday 7th May. There will be no singing or prayers, unless requested!!! I look forward to seeing you at this event for a chat over a cuppa and a slice of cake.

Café Church during June will be held on the 2nd Sunday (not the 3rd as originally planned) as our Father's Day service will be held on the 3rd Sunday of that month.

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

With love in Christ

Jean – 07749 870485

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## Litter Pick Success

*Timothy Birt*

Earlier in the morning of 2 April we were greeted to a few snow flurries, which is not unusual for litter pick day, but soon the sky cleared and the sun came out. Since we hadn't done this for a few years and with early the snow there was always the question would anyone turn up? This is Ovington so of course they did:



A big thank-you everyone who helped make the day so successful, from those hardy souls reaching into the bottom of the ditches to the vital crew who prepared and provided refreshments afterwards.

A fantastic effort from the village and a big pile of rubbish!



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## Privet Hawk Moth Caterpillars

*Barry Lambert*

My first encounter with a privet Hawk Moth caterpillar was as a 7-8 year-old walking to Watton one early Saturday Summer Morning. Opposite Loch Lane was a large privet hedge on which was the biggest bright green caterpillar I had ever seen, with a large hook-like curved “sting” on one end. I managed to drop it into my bag, being careful not to touch its “sting,” and came straight home. I need not have worried as that evening my father took me and the caterpillar to the local naturalist, “Mr George Jessop”, who was able to identify it as a harmless Privet Hawk Moth Caterpillar. Many years later, when working on the large green Privet Hedge which ran the entire length of the school, caterpillars would be collected by the Deputy Head, Mr Bill Porter, and kept in large containers with a large pot of soil. After eating its fill of privet leaves it burrows into the soil in early autumn and changes into a dark shelled torpedo shaped pupa, from which the moth emerges round about the following June. The pots of soil containing the pupa would be kept in a cool place all winter and would be brought into the classroom for the children to watch the moths emerge to be released back onto the privet hedge.



Another caterpillar to keep an eye out for is the ...

### Elephant Hawk Moth



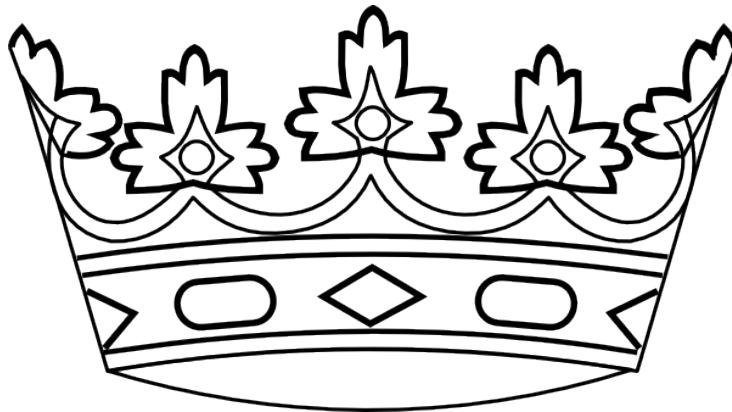
Because of the unusual appearance of the caterpillar of this moth, which has two imaginary eyes each side of its head, it is often mistaken for a snake.



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# Platinum Jubilee Plans

*Sue Horton*



The programme of events for the four days of the celebration which were advertised in last months Oracle are shown again below to remind everyone. The Village Hall, Allotment Association and Parish Council have each donated £100, so it won't cost you anything to join in.

A few volunteers from the platinum committee went door knocking Saturday 23rd April. We were hoping to find out who would be joining in with each event, for catering numbers and judging etc. We spoke to a number of people. But if you were out or hadn't decided, we left a flyer.

We particularly need to establish:

1. Who will be participating in the decorating your house competition?
2. Names and ages of children that want to attend the children's picnic and enter the 'make and decorate a crown' children's competition.
3. The number of adults and children who would like to attend the BBQ

If you haven't already advised us and want to take part, can you please let us know details ASAP by contacting:

**Sue Horton on 07392391236 ( [sue.horton1958@gmail.com](mailto:sue.horton1958@gmail.com) )**  
**or Lyndia Lewis on 01953 882222**  
or a note through the door at 1 Church Road.



## The Events Programme

Thurs 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.

Fri 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.

Sat 4 June Children's picnic and games 2pm 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.

Sun 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.

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

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## Parish Council (PC)

*Heidi Frary, (Clerk) / Editor*

Report based on the unconfirmed minutes of the 23 March meeting.

### **Matters Arising:**

Dog signs and trees have been given to the Allotment Association

### **Correspondence:**

Bures Farm Partnership have reported they have inspected the large Oak tree at the west end of The Street and confirmed it is not in a dangerous condition.

Norfolk Resilience Forum asked for interest in joining their emergency cascade alert system.

### **Planning:**

The PC objected to the retrospective application at Pole Barn, Dereham Road (3PL/2022/0085/HOU), primarily on the grounds of road safety, however it was approved by Breckland Council.

### **End-of-year donations:**

It was agreed to make a £250 contribution to Norfolk CAB and a £100 donation to the Village jubilee celebration from the 2022-23 budget.

### **Financial:**

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

### **Village & Highway issues:**

- Fly tipping along The Street was cleared by JW.
- TB met with Matthew Lines, Highways Engineer who has arranged for the trod surface to be repaired and the culverts to be jetted.
- As the last arboriculturist survey was completed 3 years ago and another survey should be considered, Clerk to obtain a quote.
- Village litter pick is arranged. It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay the hall hire for this event.

*[ Editor: VH making no charge ]*

## Public Participation:

Written reports were received from County Councillor Bowes and DC Crane, available on the website. TB presented a verbal report:

In light of the cost of living crisis, opposition groups collectively proposed an amendment to the Breckland budget which was confirmed by the Chief Financial Officer as being achievable within the proposed budget. It would have increased the *Household Support Fund*, provided an *Energy Efficiency Support Worker*, a *Food Waste Reduction Officer* and a contribution to provide a homeless shelter in the north of the District, but the amendment was defeated at an acrimonious meeting. The *General Purposes Committee* has been reformed, the effect on scrutiny will be reviewed by TB later.

## Next Meetings:

Representatives from the village organisations are invited to give a report to the Annual Parish Meeting, potentially 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)

PC Documents at: [ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home](https://ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home)

# Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



Final total rainfall for March was 37mm or 1.4"  
There were quite long dry spells between each rainfall reading, two weeks in one instance and the rain fall that followed was accompanied by flurries of snow but not enough to register on the gauge.

This month has been pretty dry – up to 19 April, only 10.5 mm or just 0.4".

... so much for April showers !

[ *Editor: If this continues I'm going to need a drought symbol !* ]

## And finally ...

Rod

- >> If I'd known I was going to live this long, I would have taken better care of myself.
- >> As Mark Twain once said:  
If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.
- >> Sign outside a shop:  
NO SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNTS.  
You have had twice as long to get the money



### Submission deadline for next issue: 24 May

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