

The Ovington Oracle

December, 2022



Season's Greetings!



The solstice is 9:48pm on 21 December, an ideal excuse to raise a glass and look forward to increasing daylight – not that anyone would notice for a couple of weeks into the New Year!

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Village events this month:

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

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

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

Village Hall (VH)

Christine Reilly

Festive Crafts & Gifts Fayre

After weeks of preparation, the Festive Fayre was held on 19 November. A steady stream of visitors enjoyed home-made soups and cakes, while doing some early Christmas shopping from the gift stalls. Thanks go to all who helped and participated. After costs, the sum of £434.72 was divided equally between the village hall and the church.

Bowjangles – “Dracula in Space”

Wow what a show! There seems to be a misconception about live shows touring village halls, that they are performed by amateurs and should therefore cost very little to attend. Nothing could be further from the truth. Through the sponsorship of Creative Arts East we can put on professional shows at a fraction of the cost of, say, Norwich venues. Bowjangles are extremely talented, award-winning professional musicians/entertainers who gave Ovington an amazing show on Sunday 27th. We were blown away by their energy and musical abilities. But, out of 40 tickets sold, only 6 were to villagers. Yet again, most of our support came from the surrounding area. People of Ovington, you missed a treat!

Film night?

I recently asked, via the Oracle, whether anyone would be interested in film shows in Ovington – and received one reply! We need feedback in order to put on entertainment and events that YOU, the villagers, would like to see. All events take a huge amount of planning and work behind the scenes, before, during and even after the event. Major events take at least 3 months from the planning stage to allow for advertising deadlines.

Please let us know what you want to see at the village hall. Perhaps you would like to join the village hall committee at the AGM in February so we can incorporate everyone's ideas for the village hall celebration of the Coronation in May.

Regular Coffee Morning

The Village Hall is open every Monday morning, but not Boxing Day, for coffee, tea, cakes. From around 10:30am to 12:00 noon, for only £1, you can partake of refreshments and catch up with friends and neighbours.

Messages

Editor

Joint Church and Village Hall Christmas Fayre

I would like to thank Village Hall Committee for organising and running the joint Christmas market this year. My apologies that neither I nor Jeremy were able to attend as we both contracted the COVID virus.

Thank you to all who helped to raise much needed funds, both to the stall holders and helpers who set up this function. Well done everyone.

Jean Rockett-Woods

Seasons Greetings

Linda and Tim wish all our neighbours and friends a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. In lieu of cards this year we are giving a donation to the ***The Benjamin Foundation***,

“helping local young people journey out of homelessness for good”

Linda & Tim – Stone House Farm

Festive Craft Fayre

A well attended event for the village hall, due to stall holders and village people promoting the event on social media, and producing posters.

Entering the hall around 12:30ish found the event in full swing, with a good crowd already perusing the various stalls. These included needlecraft stalls, cake stall, pottery stall, honey and beeswax stall, and a wax melt fragrance stall, from which a lovely aroma met you as you entered the hall.

A large tombola stall seemed busy all the time I was there, Jane doing her normal amazing work with that. Along with the lovely cakes and refreshments being served by a cheerful Sam. If something a little more filling was required, Gill was serving a selection of freshly made soups.

The refreshment seating area was busy all the time, with plenty of conversation, and laughter going on. Catching up with friends from some surrounding areas.

Just an observation for the next event: there were no signs outside the village hall, or verges to suggest that the event was taking place in the hall at all. The front door was shut, and apart from the cars in the car park, there was no other indication of anything happening, and of course the cars could well have been attending a private function. This means that any casual passer by wouldn't have taken in the event.

However, overall a good event, that I'm sure would have been even better with a more proactive advertising campaign.

Anon

The village has recently finally lost its oldest apple tree!

This was a Norfolk Beefing tree, which has a long old history. The tree, located at the rear of the Old Crown, finally came down to earth, pushed by a tiny gust of wind. However, there was nothing really holding it up! It was a tall tree, planted at least a century and a half ago, but probably more. It has grown to the height of the house and produced large apples. The trunk was approximately 36 inches wide and over many years had become a home for squirrels and bees.

When two lots of bees left home, they were exported to Saham Toney, where they were given their own hives. The bees had pretty well eaten away most of the insides of the trunk, which weakened it greatly over many years!

The top part of the tree was broken off in a gale, in the 1990s. The trunk was then cut down in size to stop it hitting the house in a similar situation. So there was only about 20 feet left standing! This served as a large bird perch and a feeding platform!

In the end, the bottom of the tree was eaten away, with no strength left, but it had a long life!

Jeremy Woods – The Old Crown

CPR and AED Training

Bruce Smith

On 26 Oct, in the evening, four of us from the village attended a training evening at Barn Ruche, held by St Johns Ambulance Watton Unit. For those that don't know, AED, is for the use of defibrillators, which of course, we are very fortunate to have in the village. It was a very good evening training for something we all hope we never need to use ! The information that went along with the training was also very enlightening, even a little scary, relating to some of the figures involved.

After the evening ended, we got chatting to the instructor, and the conversation turned to the possibility of holding a training course in our own village. To this end Richard Moss has been in communication with the instructor, who has kindly agreed to hold an evening course, if we can get a worth while size group together. Early signs have shown that there is good interest already, certainly the original four of us will do it again, and those that we have spoken to so far are very enthusiastic.

Now the good bit, the course is completely FREE, and we hope that the village hall will also support this in that manner, as it is completely for the good of the village, and its people. We have yet to speak to the village hall committee on that though.

If anybody would like take the course (I can't stress how good, useful, and informative it is), please let myself, Richard or Christine Moss know so that we can get some figures together, then arrange with the instructor and village hall a date, which of course we will then advise to all that have expressed interest. Please note the minimum age for this training course is sadly 18 years.

Bruce – 45 The Street

Church News

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



Services:

4 Dec – 10:30am	Holy Communion (Adrian Bell)
11 Dec – 10:30am	Family Service (JR-W) (JR-W)
18 Dec – 6:00pm	Carol Service (JR-W)
25 Dec – 10:30am	Family Service (Adrian Bell)
1 Jan – 10:30am	Family Service (JR-W)

Unfortunately due to me contracting the COVID virus I was unable to take the Remembrance day service last month. Our lovely Churchwarden, Jessica Rockett, stepped up and led the service, which I am told was a lovely service which she did well. Thank you Jessica and a special thank you to our PCC, Ann, David and Gill, and all in attendance who supported Jessica on this special day.

A big thank you goes to Jane Lambert for the lovely decoration of the church for our Remembrance service and a big thank you to all the knitters who had been busy over the year knitting poppies which were displayed outside the church. Thank you also to all who have worked to keep our church clean, decorated and the churchyard mown and tidy.

We had a lovely Christening service for Ayda Rose to welcome her into God's family. She looked beautiful in her Christening robe which was made especially for this occasion. Thank you to all who came along to support her and her proud parents Abi and Alan on this special day.

Each Sunday morning we hold services, thanking our Lord for all that he has done for us. Our Carol service on 18th December will be at the later time of 6:00pm to which you are all invited. It is a lovely service with readings on the birth of Jesus interspersed with carol singing. At the end of the service we celebrate with mulled wine and mince pies. For the children who may, or may not, be partaking of mulled wine there will be a selection of sweets to chose from. Adults can have sweets if preferred!

We will also be having a special service on Christmas morning which will be led by Revd. Adrian Bell. Adrian always enjoys taking services in St. John church and we enjoy his message to us, and we usually have a laughter filled service. Do join us to celebrate the birth of Christ. Children, please bring along a favourite present that you received that morning. There will be another one waiting for you after the service.

Church Social Events:

Saturday 3 Dec Coffee Morning / Book & DVD Sale (church)

The Allotment Group are holding coffee mornings every Tuesday morning from 10:30am in the Allotment. However if the weather is inclement they will hold their coffee mornings in our Village Church until the warmer weather comes again in the spring. If you fancy a coffee, tea or home-made cake I am sure that they will make you feel very welcome.

With love in Christ,

Jean – 07749 870485

Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



October total was 56mm or 2.2"

Until 24 November it is 96mm or 3.78". This wet spell it would seem is making up for the long dry spell we had earlier in the year, just hope some of it is being saved.

Parish Council (PC)

Timothy Birt

A provisional report prior to preparation of formal minutes.

Councillors: Karen Weir (KW, chair), Pete Bate (PB), Timothy Birt (TB), Dave Welsted (DW) and Jeremy Woods (JW).

Apologies: JW, District Councillor Helen Crane, County Councillor Claire Bowes.

Present: Clerk, KW, PB, TB, DW and 3 members of the public.

Matters Arising:

A painted copy of the village sign made from the original casting pattern was given to the PC by Mr & Mrs Sykes from Yorkshire. It is hoped that the Village Hall would look favourably on displaying it in the hall. DW to contact Village Hall committee.

Correspondence:

PC agreed to find out about the cost of acquiring and operating the 'ovington.gov.uk' domain. Councillors felt there was no urgency as grants may be available in the future if this becomes a requirement.

Planning:

Planning Applications:

3PL/2022/0290/DOC: Chanticleer, Annex, Dereham Road:
Discharge of condition 3 on 3PL/2021/0241/F

Planning responses (submitted by Clerk under delegated powers):

3PL/2022/1039/HOU: 21 The Street – Single storey rear extension and associated alterations. Provision of air source heat pump and ground mounted solar PV. No comments submitted.

Planning Notifications:

3PL/2022/0901/F: Land at Water End Farm – demolition of holiday accommodation and erection of dwelling. REFUSED

3PL/2022/1039/HOU: 21 (above) APPROVED

Highways or Village Issues:

Norfolk County Council are aware that the roadway is sliding into the ditch at the western end of The Street. TB to contact our highways engineer and request a village walk around.

Financial Matters:

A donation of £150 was proposed for Norfolk CAB (who have an office in Watton), agreed.

Councillors reviewed and agreed payments to be made.

Future Business:

Precept calculations. Provisional data distributed for discussion at the next meeting.

Open Forum:

- Residents from North Ovington expressed concern over what may happen to newly purchased barns. PC to monitor any planning applications.
- An update on vehicle speeding was requested. TB said he had a battery and battery box but needed to wire it up and fit a securing chain to lock it before refitting the speed sign.
- TB (as District Councillor): Congratulated Cllr Helen Crane on her elevation with a full Breckland Cabinet portfolio. TB then gave a resume of his written report, the full version is available on the PC web-site. TB had sought the opinion of a Barrister over the proposal to sell Barnham Broom Golf Club following an unsolicited offer. The advice indicated that the Council's use of "Rule 12", which removes the normal scrutiny from the decision is not justified and there is insufficient information in the report to demonstrate the Council is achieving "best value". TB made detailed representation at a Breckland Council Cabinet meeting, but Cabinet agreed to the sale unanimously, delegating all further work to officers, without further Councillor input.

Next Meeting: 18 Jan 2023, 7:30pm in the village hall.

Future meetings: 15 March, 17 May (AGM), 19 July, 20 September and 15 November

PC Documents at: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Non-Village events

Editors Choice

Norfolk Wildlife Trust Breckland Local Group



On 23 October was a rather soggy walk across Weeting Heath in search of fungi. Everyone stayed very cheerful and were delighted to see quite a number of species on grassland and then amongst the trees next to the visitor centre.

November saw the start of our talks programme, with Liz Ibbitson talking about the work of the RSPB with Little Terns.

On 14 December starting at 7:30pm, we will be serving seasonal refreshments after a talk by Ieuan Evans BTO's Director of Engagement. He will be unravelling the mystery of migration.

As usual the venue is The Methodist Centre, High Street, Watton. IP25 6AB. Cost is £2 members, £3 non-members. No booking required.

Fiona Roat

Dereham Walkers are Welcome

Please come and join us for a walk in and around Dereham.

We enjoyed a perfect autumn walk at the beginning of November. There was a slight breeze as we crunched our way over acorns and marvelled at the autumn colours.

Our short walk of around four miles is always on the first Friday of the month. There is also a programme of longer walks planned for 2023, including one on 1 January 2023 to see in the New Year.

For up to date information, please check our website:

www.DerehamWaw.org.uk

or contact Ken Hawkins: ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk (07505 426750)

Sue Rothwell



Boy Sid's point of view:

'Anon'

Well har yew gitten on tergitha, yew hent bin washed down tha rud wi orl tha rearn we hev hed jist leartly as long as thet dunt tarn tew snow we shell be orlrite. I heer tha boy Brodey hev bin knockin in tha goals agin, three in wun gearm. Keep it up ole meart, yew'll be in tha fust divishun afore yew no it.

Horry an me hed a big darts match larst wik, wun of tha tuff wuns against ower old enemies from tha Dutty Duck, I still rekkun they cheet. However I was jist gooin tew teark a throw wen I hed a thort. So I say tew Horry, who was on tha chork, "Coe blarst bor we shooda bin tew tha ole cowncil meetin tonite, I forgot orl abowt it. An we hed suffin tew say to tha cowncillers wot was they gooin tew dew abowt orl tha traffic was hossin thru tha willage leartly" Horry he say "Thet hent no consarn, I'll hev a word wi tha ole Chairmawtha, she allus listen tew wot I say." Ah now i git why har ole bike is allus leenin up agin Horry's geart o laert. I'de like tew no was gooin on wi them tew, praps thas cos heeze bin gettin har owtside o sum o his whisky, but he hent let me hev a drop fer sum time, praps thas orl gone down har throot. We shell see in dew corse I dunt dowl. Well looks like I run owt o spearce agin so I shell hatta say fare yew well tergitha keep dry and dunt fergit, Dew yew kip a troshin.

Boy Sid

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