

The Ovington Oracle

March, 2023



The clocks change on Sunday 26 March, being spring the clocks 'spring' forward an hour thus giving us lighter evenings.



The vernal equinox occurs on Monday, 20 March 2023, at 21:24 to be unreasonably precise.



Astronomers and scientists use the March equinox as the start of spring (northern hemisphere), which ends on the June solstice. However, meteorologists use complete months and define spring as March, April and May.

The word "equinox" is derived from the Latin words *aequus*, meaning equal, and *nox*, meaning night. In reality, at the equinox there is more daylight time than night-time, because the sun's light refracts over the horizon.



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Village events this month:

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

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

Quiz Evening – Royal British Legion

Christine Reilly

Saturday 25 March

There will be a Quiz Evening in aid of the Royal British Legion at 7:00pm in the village hall on Saturday 25 March. An evening of fun is guaranteed in aid of a very good cause for only £7.50 per person, to include a ploughman's supper. Teams of 4 will compete for prizes (but mostly glory) while testing their powers of recall in friendly rivalry. There will be a grand raffle and tea/coffee will be available (otherwise BYOB). Ring 01953 885848 to book your team in, as space is limited, by the 23 March.

Come and support this great cause: all proceeds go to the British Legion appeal.

Litter Pick 2023

Timothy Birt



An opportunity for young and old to contribute to this regular village event, so 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, 1 April,
10:30am**

Meet at the village sign in The Street

I understand that refreshments will be available afterwards at the Village Hall, who could possibly turn down an offer like that?

More details at:

www.ovington.org.uk/litter

4 May – Local elections – Photo ID

Editor

You have the opportunity to choose your Parish and District Councillors on 4 May. Please exercise your right to vote and support democracy.

Photo Identification

To vote at a polling station (Village Hall), new rules apply and you will need photo ID. There are many forms of acceptable ID, especially for older people. For a full list see:

[www.electoralcommission.org.uk/
i-am-a/voter/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id)

Official Student cards and young person travel cards are NOT acceptable. If you do not have a valid form of ID, you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate from Breckland Council by post or in person.

Email: elections@breckland.gov.uk
Tel: 01362-656870
Address: Electoral Registration Officer, Breckland Council,
Elizabeth House, Walpole Loke, Dereham. NR19 1EE

or centrally at gov.uk:

voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk

Alternatively, you could apply for a postal vote from Breckland at the address above, by downloading a form from:

electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/apply-vote-post

There doesn't appear to be a direct online way to apply for a postal vote.

I hope there are candidates you support, but if not there is a splendid tradition of making your view known by spoiling your ballot (cross it through or write 'none') and it is counted and reported in the vote totals.

Fuel Trust – Town Farm

Fuel Trust Secretary

The full refurbishment of the cottage at Town Farm, 27 The Street is complete and it is available for rent. The accommodation comprises ...

Downstairs are two reception rooms, one with a log burner, a brand new kitchen, a bathroom with new suite, including mixer shower over the bath.

New carpets and air source heat pumps make for a cosy environment. These can also operate as chillers, giving full air conditioning should we have another heat wave like last year.

Upstairs are 2 bedrooms with a large space at the top of stairs which could make an excellent home office.

There is an outside utility room for washing machine / tumble dryer and space for a chest freezer or maybe bikes?

During the refurbishment plenty of insulation was added which has resulted in a good EPC rating, just missing a 'C' overall.

A large garden with lots of opportunities !

The charity are asking for £800 per calendar month, with any surplus being used for the good of the village. It has not been advertised yet, because the Trustees wanted to let the village know first, hopefully giving those with a connection to the village first option.

Anyone interested in renting are encouraged to come and view, please contact the Fuel Trust Secretary, Lyndia Lewis:

Tel: 01953-882222

email: lyndialewis@googlemail.com

Church News

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

St. John the Evangelist, Ovington



Services:

5 Mar – 10:30am	Holy Communion (Adrian Bell)
12 Mar – 10:30pm	Family Service (JR-W)
19 Mar – 10:30am	Family Service (JR-W)
26 Mar – 10:30am	Family Service (JR-W)
2 Apr – 10:30am	Holy Communion (Adrian Bell)

Thank you to all who have made the churchyard look so very inviting with flowers on individual graves. We also have an array of snowdrops which seems to increase every year. Jeremy and I have tried to heat our village church in good time for our Sunday services so that you all will feel comfortable. We have had some better weather and hope that you will be able to join with us.

We have had some very cold days and nights during February but we have also had some warmer days where I have been able to get into my garden at The Old Crown and tidy it up.

We are now entering the period of Lent, remembering that Jesus took himself into the desert to be alone with his feelings and our Father God. It is a custom for many to give up something during the 40 days of Lent and the money saved donated to the church. Jeremy and I decided to give up chocolate, but I am not sure if we will manage to abstain for 4 days let alone 40 days. We may have to rethink this one!!!

I hope that you are all keeping well and I look forward to seeing you at the coffee mornings in the Village Hall on Monday mornings.

With love in Christ,

Jean – 07749 870485

Church Social Events:

Coffee mornings every Monday at 10:30am in the Village Hall.

4 March, Book Sale in the Village church 10:30am – 12 noon.

Racing in Carbrooke

Bruce Smith

No not speeding vehicles, but the first event of 2023 for Carbrooke Village Hall. This saw twelve residents of Ovington Village again enjoying the warm friendly welcome we always receive, for their Race Night on the 12 January.

Personally, I had never been to a Race Night before, so it was a learning curve for myself, and it transpired it also was for some other members of the Ovington group.

The format was explained very quickly and clearly by our racing host for the evening. We all soon settled in, ready for the first race of the evening, of which there were to be eight in total. All 'stake' money from each race was split 50:50 between the village hall and the prize pot for each race.

We chose our horse for each race from the race card provided, and some fantastic fun names had been made up by the committee for the evening, such as 'Feeling Old ridden by Gerry Atrick', and 'Farmer Giles ridden by Emma Roids'. Also famous horses from the screens, such as, Trigger, Hercules, Silver, etc.

Each race was surprisingly exciting, with us all really getting into the spirit of the racing, win or lose didn't matter, it was the fun we were all having that made the great evening. Much banter and laughter was had by all.

A raffle was held midway through the evening, pleased to say that again Ovington did well in that. The very nice bar was again open, as always, and much use was made of that throughout the evening by our group.

The next event on their calendar will have gone by the time the Oracle is published. This is/was a quiz evening, we had little interest in this event. However, for their March event they are having a band called Jokin' Apart, this will be on 11 March, and we already have ten residents of our great village going to support them.

Hopefully there will soon be some events starting in our own village hall, to which Carbrooke can come and support us, and experience the same welcoming warmth that they show to us.

Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



Rainfall total for January 2023 is 48mm or 1.9"

On 21 February, so far for this month we only have 2mm, although there have been days when there has been a mizzle of wetness, but not enough to register on my gauge

Parish Council (PC)

Heidi Frary (Clerk)

Next Meeting: 15 March 2023, 7:30pm in the village hall.

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

PC Documents at: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Events update

Christine Reilly

Stop Press!

A new date for your diary: Friday 27 October

Storyteller Neil Storey will be giving an illustrated talk on 'Norfolk Myths and Legends' in the village hall. A hot supper will be served.

The Big Lunch – 7 May

I am waiting to hear by the beginning of March whether our bid for a grant to celebrate the King's Coronation has been successful. Planning can then begin and every household will be visited to ascertain attendance numbers.

Messages Board

[Editor: with apologies to Rod, I accidentally missed this last month]

To the kind people of this Village

I would thank you all for your Christmas Cards and good wishes for the festive season, they were greatly appreciated. As has been our custom for several years now, instead of sending cards we have made a donation to a specific charity. This year as a follow on to the hugely successful concert which raised a major amount for the Big C, I have sent a donation of £147.00 to Cancer research in the hope that eventually we will not have to lose any more of our loved ones. Thank you all for your support over the past 18 months.

Rod Rumsby

Dog Walkers

The Farmer who rents the fields adjacent to the allotments has very kindly allowed us to use the field margins to exercise dogs, however a track has formed some way from the edges of the field. Please would those enjoying this privilege keep as close to the edges as practicable so as not to reduce his hay crop yield, thanks,

Timothy Birt

Young Football Star

Our young rising star in the young football world is still knocking in the goals, despite having some time away due to a hamstring injury. Having recovered he scored on his first game back and although his team lost, both sides said it was the best game ever. A sign that there is a future for English football. His next game he scored twice and then set up the play to allow his team mates to bring the score up to 5 to nil. When you see the boy Brody around give him a pat on the back and tell him well done.

Boy Sid (translated)

Ovington Bees

Richard Moss

News from the Ovington Bees.



Winter is now almost a distant memory and the last full hive left Town Farm in December. The ladies (Worker Bees) enjoyed their year in Norfolk but have now been mostly relocated to the South coast for a life by the sea!

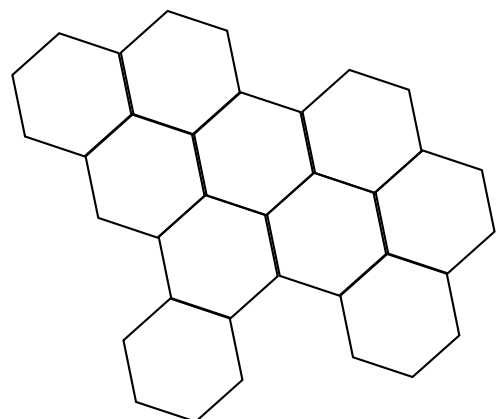
This winter was particularly hard on many UK beekeepers with many losing hives from their colonies. I personally lost two hives but this is something you learn to deal with and perhaps make better decisions the following year. Learn from your mistakes as it can be costly. As those that are in the know, the greatest threat to bees is a beekeeper.

As the days lengthen and temperatures rise bees start orientation flights to ensure they know exactly where their home is. They also take the opportunity to defecate. Yes, as disgusting as it may sound they don't like to do this inside their hives, and will hold on for weeks.

There's not a lot of food about so fondant is used to power the bees until at least April. Fondant is topped up weekly until a good supply of nectar is available. You may have seen bees in your gardens already foraging pollen from hazel trees and early crocus flowers.

The bees are not out of the woods yet as the 'beast from the east' may yet make an unwelcome return. In the meantime, bees are taking to the air and queens will start to lay eggs gradually building hive numbers back up to 60,000 by April/May.

Drone On! (Drones are male bees and do very little)



Village Hall (VH)

Bruce Smith

AGM report

The AGM for the Village Hall was held on the 23 February. A very good turn out of village people attended, approx. 18 in total, along with the existing members of the committee.

Following on from Chairman, and Treasurers reports, it was asked if anybody else would like to join the committee. There was a very good response from the floor, with many agreeing to do so.

Committee positions were filled from those new members, I will include a full list next month, along with a full report of the meeting. This report is being typed right on the deadline for the Oracle, so hence little time to spare. Watch this space next month

For now, the new Chairman is Jan Cockburn, Vice Chair Bruce Smith, Treasurer is Richard Moss, and Booking clerk Lyndia Lewis. Please speak to any of us, and as I say a full list of officers will be with you next month.

Hopefully by the time you read this a Village Hall Facebook page will be up and running, so please keep an eye out for that.

Please come forward with suggestions of things that you may like to see put on at YOUR Village Hall.

The Ovington Crower

'Anon'

Waal har yew gittin on tergetha, I hent bin tew sharp of leart so I're bin towld tew stay owta tha fresh air an keep in by tha fire, I rekkun thas corse tha orl think I'm gooin tew spread orl my garms abowt, I hent got no garms tho.

Wos bin gooin on in tha willage I hear yew arsk, waal I'll tell yew wot I're sin. I wos sittin havin a cuppas an a slice o ceark wi gal Lucy, cos she meark a soola of a ceark duz Lucy. She say tew me she say "Wos gooin on oova at Horry's plearce. That look like thet mawtha from the cowncil cummin from rownd tha back an she hent lookin tew good" So I hed a look owta tha winder an sure enuff she wos holdin on tew the owtside wall of his cottage an she looked like she wos gooin tew goo hed oova heels at any minute. I say tew Lucy I say "I rekkun sheeze bin knockin back summa Horry's booze, which hent a good idee cos thet hev got wun helluva kick tew it, I betta goo oova thar an see she dunt fall in tha rud an git runned oova" So I thanked har fer tha ceark an tea an went tew see wot I cud dew, I know we dunt sallus git on but I dint wanta heffta skreap har up offen tha rud. Sheed got tew tha end o tha wall asn wos lookin at har bike which leant agin the hidge, she wos all of a shake an coont stand uprite so wot she wood've dun if sheed got har bike I dasnt think. Howsumeve she beat me tew it an she wos tryin tew git har bike owta tha hidge cos thet wos orl cort up in tha thorny bits an she wos gitten orl savage an still tryin not tew fall oova at tha searm time. I got har bike owt an she lent on it but sheed niva git onnit. So I say tew har I say "Dew yew hold yor bike an lean on me an I'll see yew down tha rud tew yor howse, wot tha hell wos yew drinkin tew git yew inta sich a steart" She tried tew look at me but coont git har eyes tew wuk, orl she cud git owt wos "Wisky" an then she giv owt a rare ole hiccup an I wos worrit she mite thow up an I wos a bit tew cloose fer thet.

I got har aimed in tha rite drecshun an we set orf down tha rud, wot anywun thort if theyed sin us I dasnt think. We got tew har plearce an she sota wook up an she "I kin manigit now Sid, yew kin goo hoom"

Submission deadline for next issue: 23 March

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