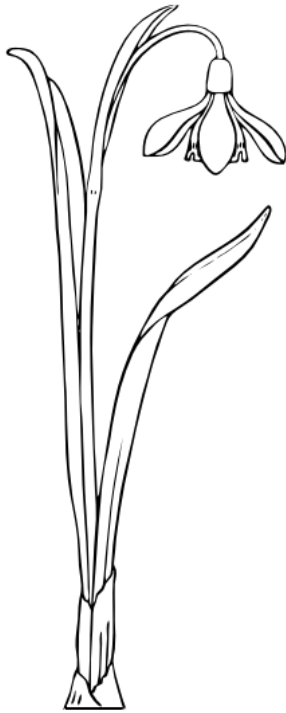


The Ovington Oracle

February, 2024



As we watch for the snowdrops to appear, I am reminded that there are some traditions in February, both old and new, one of which occurs on the fourteenth and has something to do with St Valentine ... mustn't forget!

Jean presents some of the ecclesiastical origins of Candlemas day (2 February) in the Church News, there is also a saying:

If Candlemas Day be fair and bright
Winter will have another fight.

If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain,
Winter won't come again.

Moon:

The second full moon of 2024 occurs on 24 February and is also known as the Snow Moon in many Northern Hemisphere cultures. Let's see if it lives up to its reputation for bringing snow.

This year the moon is near its apogee so the snow moon is also a micromoon, appearing smaller than usual. It is not just visual effect because tides are caused by the gravitational interaction between Earth and Moon and if the moon is further away this effect is reduced leading to around 50mm (2 inches) smaller tidal variation than regular spring tides.

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Village events this month:

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

VH:Village Hall, PC:Parish Council, C:Church, Y:Yoga, YC:Youth Club

Parish Council: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Oracle back copies (and more): ovington.org.uk

Village Information: ovington-village.org.uk

Church News

Jean Rockett-Woods (Lay Minister)

Services:

4 Feb – 10:30am	Candlemas (Revd. Adrian Bell)
11 Feb – 10:30am	Family Service (JR-W)
18 Feb – 6:00pm	Morning Worship (JR-W)
25 Feb – 10:30am	Book of Common Prayer (JR-W)
3 Mar – 10:30am	Lent Holy Communion (Revd. Adrian Bell)



A special Thank You to all who give up their time to keep our church clean and our churchyard neat and tidy.

At the time of writing this message to you the wind is howling and the rains have filled our garden pond. Not a day for gardening!

We will be holding a special service for Candlemas on Sunday 4 February, which will be taken by the lovely and lively Adrian Bell. It is a service suitable for children to attend and they will also receive a special candle at this service.

Candlemas marks the return of light and is a symbol of protection and prosperity. This service also commemorates the presentation of our Lord Jesus at the Temple of Jerusalem, referring to him as the light of the people of Israel (and all who believe in Him).

Candlemas is held 40 days after Christmas and traditionally, at this service, Tamales (a corn-based dough mixture filled with meats or beans and cheese) were served with chocolate and coffee. Now I can't promise Tamales, but I can promise a selection of cakes, chocolate biscuits, tea, coffee, and a very friendly atmosphere. Please do come along and support this lovely church in our village.

I am licenced to take Communion to anyone who would like communion at home and cannot get to church. If you would just like me to visit you for a chat then please ring me.

With love in Christ,

Jean (07749 870485)

Ovington Bees Under Attack!

Richard Moss

The bees have been stuck in their hives throughout most of dreary December and January with only a few days where the temperature was acceptable enough for bees to fly without freezing their little socks off!

At this time of year, the queen is not laying and population numbers plummet to an all-time low. The recent cold snap will keep the bees together in a tight formation within the hive as they maintain a temperature of 37 degrees Celsius whatever the weather outside.



I insulate my hives and feed them sugar or fondant throughout the winter to ensure they have a good start in the new year. Many beekeepers do not practice this, but I find that hive losses are lower. Hive inspections will not take place for several weeks or at least until the temperature reaches 15 degrees Celsius.

Well, this year our native bees have far more to worry about than a few days of low temperatures. Something far more dangerous is heading our way...

Asian 'Yellow Legged' Hornets

This year could see an invasion of Asian Hornets in unprecedented numbers following many sightings in Kent during 2023. It has decimated honeybee populations and other pollinators in Europe and now the Channel is our last defence. It is a highly aggressive predator. One hornet can eat 30 to 50 bees in a day.

European hornets are very common in the UK, and you may have already seen them in your garden. They will attack and pick off bees but not as proficiently as Asian Hornets.

Mated queens are now hibernating and will start emerging from March onwards. Nest building quickly follows in April (workers appear) with population growth in June. Between July and October hawking (hovering) of honeybees builds and becomes severe in September. Hawking or hovering outside hives stops bees from collecting nectar and pollen to feed themselves. Weak colonies are quickly overcome resulting in the loss of a hive.

Identify Asian Hornet

1. Does it look very black?
2. Has it got a wide orange stripe on fourth segment of abdomen?
3. Do its legs look as if they have been dipped in yellow paint?

The UK beekeeping association (www.bbka.org.uk) is doing a lot to highlight the influx of Asian hornets and more information can be found on their website. Beekeepers across the UK have joined an 'Asian Hornet Watch' using an app to help report sightings.

Personally, I will be setting lots of traps from February onwards to keep this big critter at bay!

A word of caution if you find a hornet's nest do not approach it. They will attack and sting if interfered with and potentially you could meet your maker sooner rather than later!

If you do snap a photo of a mysterious insect that you think may be a hornet, send me picture on rmba22875@btinternet.com

DroneOn

Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



Herewith the rainfall for last month December 2023 84mm or 3.3 inches.

As of 23 January the month has seen 52mm or a fraction over 2 inches. These last few weeks have been devoted to frost with nary a touch of snow.

The total for last year, 2023, was 804.25 mm or 31.66 inches, the wettest month being October with 121mm or 4.75 inches but the following two months were also quite wet, hence the soggy effect the latter part of the year. There were also some heavy rainfalls during the later summer months which must have been detrimental to the harvest period.

Parish Council (PC)

Heidi Frary (Clerk to the Council)

Date of Next Meetings:

The meeting scheduled for 24 January was postponed and will now take place on:

Thursday 1 February 7.30pm at Ovington Village Hall

Future meetings:

20 March, 15 May, 17 July, 18 September and 20 November 2024

Recipe of the Month

Lyndia Lewis

Caramel Shortbread

To make the shortbread:

- 6oz plain flour
- 4oz Margarine
- 2oz caster sugar

Rub fat into flour until it resembles breadcrumbs, mix in sugar, knead to a dough by hand. Grease baking tray and spread dough to base using fingertips.

Caramel topping:

- 4oz caster sugar
- 4oz margarine
- 1 small tin condensed milk
- 2tbl spoons syrup

Place all ingredients in a pan bring to boil stirring continuously for 5mins

Cool and pour over shortbread. When completely cold cover with chocolate that has been melted in a bowl over a pan of hot water. Leave to set then mark into squares with a sharp knife that has been warmed (keep dipping in a jug of hot water).

Good with coffee, enjoy!

First Aid Training

Richard Moss

EMERGENCY FIRST AID TRAINING at Ovington Village Hall

We have managed to secure another date for this training course conducted and overseen by St John Ambulance trainers. The course will cover a wide range of first aid procedures and techniques including the following:

Patient care and communication; Observations; Primary survey; Making an emergency call; Recovery position; Signs of Heart attack vs Cardiac arrest; CPR; Choking; Severe Bleeds; Using an AED; COVID-19 advice in terms of first aid; Using the right medical service.

The course is free of charge but donations to St John Ambulance are appreciated.

Date: Sunday 28 April 2024

Time: 10:00am to 4:00pm

Location: Ovington Village Hall

If this is of interest, please contact Richard at:

rmba22875@btinternet.com

Village Hall (VH)

Mike Howes (Village Hall Trustee)

New Year Party

The village hall opened its doors New Year's Eve, for an evening of fun, karaoke, games. The evening was well attended. Everyone contributed food (plenty as usual) and brought their own alcohol to celebrate the new year. We all sang our hearts out, although not exactly in tune.

A special mention for Harriett who managed to keep awake for the whole evening until way past mid-night.

Our thanks for all the volunteers who made the evening so enjoyable.

Sam Howes

Games Night

On Friday 19 January we held a games night at the village hall. Just an entry fee of £2 to have a get together and try our luck at table tennis, snooker and a host of board games. These were all played with much gusto and everybody enjoyed such a jolly evening.

Regular Events

As usual there will be youth Club on the last Friday of the month

Yoga Classes every Tuesday 7:00 – 8:00pm

Coffee mornings every Monday at 10:30am where everybody is welcome.

Forthcoming Events

As previously advertised in previous Oracles Dan Star will be performing on Friday 2 February. Tickets are selling out very quickly. He is back by public demand as he was well received last time he performed.

We hope to be having the following events in 2024:

- Dan Star
- Easter Afternoon Tea
- D Day celebration and Barbecue
- St John's Ambulance Resuscitation Course open to all
- Race Night
- Curry Night
- Quiz Night

- Summer Bazaar
- Shanty Singers
- Christmas Bazaar
- Christmas Afternoon Tea

For further details and dates to be announced please refer to Facebook or the website ovingtonvillagehall.co.uk

Ovington Village Hall AGM

As previously advertised this will be on Wednesday 29 February.

Nominations for committee members should be e-mailed to the secretary, rosemaryjones152@gmail.com, by 1 February.

Please refer to January's edition of the oracle for full details.

The VH Trustees

Messages

Jean Rockett-Woods

CHURCH SOCIAL EVENT

A coffee morning is being held at our village church on Saturday 3 February from 10:30am where you will be made to feel very welcome.

Jean (07749 870485)

Rod Rumsby



FOOTBALL SUMMARY

I received this scrawl from Boy Sid, apologies for any typing errors but his scribble is getting worse:

Waal ower boy Brody ower star, hent hed tew many gearms tha year so far, fust thet ware tew wet arta orl tha rearn we had afore an arta Chrismus, then acorse thet fruz up an tha ole grownd wunt searf tew play on. The wun or tew gearms he hev played heeze dun his yewshul by knockin tha ball inter tha back o' tha net with some reel gud footwork an he has ways of putting his oppersishun intew a rite ole flummox. We're orl hoopin fer sum better weatha so he can reely git back inta his scorin ways. He hez bin corled up tew play fer tha senyere team now an agin so heeze known fer his skill. Dew yew kip a scoring ole partna Ovington is gooin tew cheer yew on neva fear.

Fiona Rout



NORFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST

(Breckland Local Group)

Wednesday 14 February we have Martin Hosier, local photographer talking about wildlife from a warmer clime, but he's kept us guessing as to exactly where. This is after a short AGM to which all NWT members are welcome.

Commencing at 7.30pm at The Methodist Centre, High Street, Watton. IP25 6AB. Cost is £3 non-members, £2 members. Refreshments will be served.

The Ovington Crower: Tales from the Churchyard

Boy Sid

Cor thet was suffen hot, I leant Granfers ole scythe agin a grave stone and mopped my head wi my dwile which dint dew a lotta good cos that were already soakin wet. I looked back at the little ole bit wot I'de done, there wos Bits o grass and weeds still standin, I blamed the grave stoons cos thet hint tew easy tew mow rownd 'em. I was jist gooin tew hev a drink of warm orange juice wishin it were a cold beer, when a voice ahind me said "Warm wuk ole partna" Cor blarst I nearl jumped owta my skin cos I hent heard anyone comin. I tunned rownd an there stod this ole boy dressed in his Sunday suit, gitten a bit green wi age, a shirt wi no coller and the usual flat cap. I dint recognise him and thort where's he cum from. He got hold of the scythe and said "Dew yew mind if I gi yew a spell." "Well no" I say glad of a break. He looked at the blade an give it the ole thumb test, I could see he weren't too impressed an he nodded tew the rub I hed in my back pocket. I give it tew him an he give tha ole blade one or tew strokes followed by another thumb test, after which he nodded his head in approval and set to resettin the handles tew suit his grip. He then went back tew tha bit I had dun an with just a few swings had cleared that bit proper like. I could hev sworn thet ole blade went right thru the ole grave stones, cos he never left a bit of grass standing anywhere. Well he tunned arownd and set tew cutting the rest of tha grave yard. I cum ahind wi my hook tew trim up the bits he missed, but thar weren't any.

In the time it would have taken me tew jist sharpen tha blade he hed done tha lot. He'd stopped an stood leanin on tha scythe handle, sort of lookin at the little bit left in a corner. I stood aside o him and thanked him fer his good wuk an sed "I dint ketch yor name Sir" "Well most folk call me jist Billy but my full name is Billy Davis". He nodded tew tha bit he hent dun an sed "I'll leave thet bit tew yew ole partner, but dew you gew carefull thar's some good people in thar". I couldn't recall seein any graves in thet bit so I tunned my head an looked at that area. I tunned back tew shake his hand and thank him again, but there was no-one thar, I looked all arownd the graveyard thar wos no sign of him, I called "Billy" a cupple of times but nothin. So I set to to finish that little bit off and hoped the Vicar would be satisfied. The handles of the scythe were to my surprise ice cold, howeva I set to an that ole blade just sailed through all the tuff ole grass an weeds jist as it hed fer Billy an I soon cleared thet larst bit. It was then thet under the grass lay several Grave stones laid flat and when I looked closer I could see they were all in memory of folk called Davis. Then there was one thet made my blood run cold, it read, "In loving memory of William, (Billy), Davis died Feb 1938 aged 78 years old, never forgotten" Well Billy ole friend I shan't forget yew thas fer shure.

Boy Sid

Youth Club

Kaz Mason

Meets last Friday of the month

For ages 8–14 years
6:00 – 8:00pm

At the Village Hall
FREE entry, squash & biscuits

Light meal option available to purchase
along with items from a tuck-shop

Check out our Facebook page for updates:
Ovington Youth Club, Norfolk



If you wish your child to attend, please TXT or call 07880935765 so we can ensure we have the correct adult/child ratio, thanks.

Submission deadline for next issue: 21 February

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