

The Ovington Oracle

March, 2024



The clocks change on Sunday 31 March, being spring the clocks 'spring' forward an hour thus giving us lighter evenings.



The vernal equinox occurs on Monday, 20 March 2023, at 3:07 to be unreasonably precise.



Astronomers 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. Which ever you choose, spring is coming!



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Village events this month:

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

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 Hall: ovingtonvillagehall.co.uk

Village Information: ovington-village.org.uk

Village Hall (VH)

Mike Howes (Village Hall Trustee)

On 2 February we opened our doors again to the return of Dan Star. Everybody who attended enjoyed an evening of great singing, the majority also spent most of the time dancing. Great fun was had by all. He will probably return next year as everybody commented on how good he was.

Regular Events

We continue to hold regular coffee mornings on Monday 10:30am. This is open to anybody, for £1 you can have a choice of delicious cakes and as many cups of tea/coffee you can drink. It is a great time to meet other members of Ovington and the surrounding villages.

Youth club continues on the last Friday of the month. Also Yoga sessions are on every Tuesday evening.

We have started carpet bowls, this is great fun although quite difficult. The next carpet bowls evening is on Wednesday 13 March at 7:30pm.

Fencing

If you have walked past the village hall you would have noticed a new fence and gates. The old one was starting to collapse. This is a great improvement and important for first impressions to all new visitors.

Damp

The damp issue in the committee room is now being addressed. The plaster will have to be removed and injected with a new 'damp course', hopefully this will solve the problem.

Forthcoming Events

AGM on Wednesday 28 February 7:00pm. This meeting is open to all villagers. The election of Trustees and Committee members will take place. Please come and give us your views on how you would like the hall run and perhaps help in its running.

Curry Evening on the 16 March has nearly sold out. If you would like to come please contact Kaz on 07880935765

Please check events on Facebook or the village hall web-site.

ovingtonvillagehall.co.uk

The VH Trustees

Church News

Jean Rockett-Woods (Lay Minister)

Services:

3 Mar – 10:30am	Lent Holy Communion	(Revd. Adrian Bell)
10 Mar – 10:30am	Family Service	(JR-W)
17 Mar – 10:30am	Morning Worship	(JR-W)
24 Mar – 10:30am	<u>Palm Sunday</u> : Book of Common Prayer	(JR-W)
25 Mar – 7:30pm	** Carbrooke Church – Celtic Compline	(JR-W)
28 Mar – 7:30pm	<u>Maunday Thursday</u> : Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar	(Revd. Adrian Bell)
29 Mar – 10:30am	<u>Good Friday</u> : Meditation	(JR-W)
30 Mar – 7:30pm	** Saham Toney Church – <u>Easter Eve</u> : Service of Light	(Revd. Adrian Bell)
31 Mar – 10:30am	** Ashill Church – <u>Easter Sunday</u> : Benefice Service	(Revd. Stephen Thorp)

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



We are now in the season of Lent, which lasts for 40 days. This is the same time that our Lord Jesus spent in the desert before he started his public ministry. During this time Jesus was tempted by Satan to do his will, and not God's will. This is something that we can all be tempted to do and take the easy path in life, doing what is best for us, and not considering others.

During Lent, Christians engage in various traditional rituals and practices as a way of spiritual preparation for the celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. Fasting during Lent often involves giving up certain foods, activities, or habits as a form of self-discipline and spiritual reflection. Many also attend special worship services, reflect on the significance of Jesus' sacrifice, and seek to grow in their relationship with God during this period.

On Ash Wednesday, which was 14 February, worshippers attended a

special church service where they received ashes on their foreheads in the form of a cross. These ashes, typically made by burning the palm crosses from the previous year's Palm Sunday service, serve as a symbolic reminder of human mortality and the need for repentance. The marking by ashes is accompanied by the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" or a similar expression, emphasizing mortality and repentance. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, excluding Sundays, which are considered a celebration of the Resurrection.

Please remember that I am only a phone call away if you need a visit or wish to speak to me.

With love in Christ,

Jean (07749 870485)

This year the Easter Bunny has informed me that Easter Eggs will be hidden in the front garden of The Old Crown on **Easter Day**. Please take one each so that there is enough for each village child.

Rainfall

Rod Rumsby



Total rainfall for January was 59.3mm ($2 \frac{1}{3}$ ").

As of 23 February the month has seen 118mm ($4 \frac{2}{3}$ ").

Recipe of the Month

Christine Moss

Shortbread

This is a really simple recipe and makes 16 pieces

Ingredients

- 12oz plain flour
- Pinch of salt
- 8oz butter/Stork cut into cubes.
- 4oz caster sugar
- Extra caster sugar for sprinkling

Method

Pre-heat oven to 160°C/Fan 140°C/Gas Mark 3.

Grease a 12 x 9-inch oblong shallow baking tin.

Place all ingredients into a mixer or food processor and mix until a ball forms.

Press the dough into the prepared tin, flatten using the back of a spoon.

Prick through the full depth all over with a fork.

Mark into 16 pieces (I make triangles) then bake in prepared oven for 45 to 50 minutes until lightly golden.

Remove from oven and re-cut the pieces sprinkle a little extra caster sugar on top.

Cool in the tin for 10 minutes and then gently remove to a cooling rack.

Once cool store in an airtight container.

Parish Council (PC)

Heidi Frary (Clerk to the Council)

A report based on the unconfirmed minutes of the PC meeting on 1 February.

Present: Cllrs K Weir (KW), T Birt (TB), Dave Welsted (DW) and Jeremy Woods (JW).

In attendance: The Clerk and two members of the public

Apologies: Cllr P Bate (PB)

Matters Arising: none

Correspondence:

Email from NALC requesting consideration of membership. It was agreed not to join at this time.

Planning:

New Applications: None

Planning responses submitted under delegated powers:

- 39L/2023/1131/HOU: Thendele 35 The Street – proposed garage conversion and internal alterations. No Comments submitted
- 3PL/2023/1134/F: The Bungalow, Water End Farm, Church Road – Change of use from holiday let to residential (retrospective). Objection submitted

Notifications: (from Breckland Council)

- 39L/2023/1131/HOU: Thendele 35 The Street – proposed garage conversion and internal alterations. APPROVED
- 3PL/2023/1134/F: The Bungalow, Water End Farm, Church Road – Change of use from holiday let to residential (retrospective). REFUSED

Financial Matters:

Basic tree survey course

It was agreed that the PC would fund a basic tree survey course for Cllr P Bate

Consideration of funding for the Ovington Oracle.

TB explained that currently he funds the printing costs of the Oracle which potentially deters volunteers from taking this role. The current material cost for 4320 double sided sheets equates to £250 per year.

TB left the meeting whilst this was discussed.

It was agreed that printing costs be covered by the Parish Council within the precept.

Budget for 2024/25 and hence setting of the precept

There was discussion and it was agreed that the precept be set at £5,690 which represents an increase of 2%.

Receipts and Payments

Councillors reviewed receipts and agreed payments to be made. Full details are available on the PC website along with other documentation at: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Village or Highways issues:

- Church Road. Tractors have damaged the side of the road and eroded 550mm of verge. It was agreed that TB should contact our Highways Engineer to ask for assistance and a site visit.
TB to action
- There is mud along The Street towards Saham Toney.
Clerk to request a road sweep
- It was noted that there is dog fouling on Parish Council land. It was agreed that a sign be purchased and installed. DW/TB to action

Clerk Recruitment update:

It was agreed that an offer of employment be made to the applicant.

Future Business:

- General Power of Competence
- Invitation to the Allotment Association to report to the next meeting.
- Update on dog fouling on Parish Land

Adjournment for Public Participation:

A resident reported 68 trailers of sugar beet being transported along Church Road in one day. The lorries damaged the edge of the road and did not clear up the mud that was left. TB to raise the issue with Highways during his site meeting.

Date of Meetings:

Next meeting:

20 March at 7:30pm in the Village Hall

Future meetings:

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

Messages

Jeremy Woods

Earth Hour

Since our beginnings in 2007**, Earth Hour has been known for the “lights off” moment – a symbolic event to show our collective support for the planet.

This year, Earth Hour will be taking place on Saturday 23 March, at 8:30pm and we invite you to switch off and Give an hour for Earth by spending 60 minutes doing something positive for our one shared home.

www.earthhour.org

** The village has a strong connection as Joyce’s daughter, Kate, is married to Greg Bourne, a major player in getting the concept going from Australia! Ovington was one of the first.

Fiona Rout



NORFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST

(Breckland Local Group)

On Wednesday 13 March at 7:30pm we have Tim Holt-Wilson with a talk entitled Lost Beasts of Norfolk and Suffolk.

Commencing at 7:30pm at The Methodist Centre, High Street, Watton. IP25 6AB. Cost is £3 non-members, £2 members. Refreshments served.

Funeral Celebrant

Karen Weir

Happy March everyone!

I am studying to be a funeral celebrant. Since starting my training I have discovered that not everybody knows what one does. So I thought over the next couple of oracle editions I'd share some information about what the role is. This first edition covers a more traditional crematorium funeral.

Firstly, celebrants are there to help and support the family of the bereaved. That's where it starts. A lot of people think it's just writing the eulogy, then reading it, but it's so much more than that.

It starts with meeting the family.

Talking them through what's going to happen, seeing how they are dealing with the bereavement, supporting them so they have no fear of what's going to happen at the funeral service.

Asking if they have any ideas or expectations.

Then it's my job to find out about the person who has died. This is done by asking questions, trying to get to know that person. What they liked, where they grew up, early life. This then helps me to create a fuller picture of that person.

There's music to choose, poems to suggest. A celebrant can add religious hymns or prayers into a service. It's a service which is chosen by the family to reflect their loved one. It could also be that the deceased has chosen what they want you to say.

On a personal note, I will be creating the service for a very dear friend in palliative care as and when she passes. I will do it the way she wants, obviously with input from her family, but I feel honoured she wants me.

It's also about working with the funeral director. It's teamwork, both celebrant and funeral director making sure the family's needs are being met. Having a good working relationship with the funeral director and the crematorium is absolutely key.

A celebrant will write the eulogy using the information from the family. There is an order of service to plan if one is needed. I've been to a couple of services recently and they didn't have one. They are an expense and if you're keeping costs down you're not obliged to have one.

Keeping in touch with the family, giving ongoing support and making sure the service is as they want it and reflects their loved one.

Being able to listen is important too.

Making sure the funeral director has all the details ready for the funeral is also a celebrant's job.

On the day it's leading the service at the crematorium, making sure everything is covered and those who want to participate have done so. It's being respectful to the deceased. As you can see, it's a varied and responsible role. More to it than you initially think.

Next time I'll be writing about life celebrations.

If you want to know more about my journey or would like my help please ask. Take care xx

Karen (07778374781)

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.

And Finally ...

Tim

Boy Sid is unavailable, but I'm assured he is keeping an eye on things.

- >> Why are so many people exhausted by 1 April?
They just finished a 31 day March.
- >> Why is March through May the best of the month to
buy a mattress?
It's when they are the most 'springy'.
- >> Does February like March?
No, but April May.
- >> Why do people walk faster after 20 March?
Because they have a spring in their step.
- >> I asked my friend when her birthday was and she said March 1st.
Been marching for half an hour now, and she still hasn't told me.



Submission deadline for next issue: 23 March

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