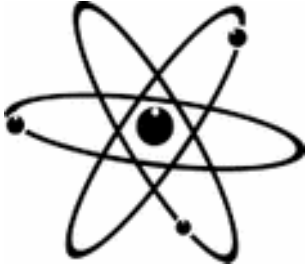


The Ovington Oracle

April, 2026



Sorry if your Oracle is a little late this month, we had a sycamore tree come down in the winds of 24/25 March and I've been somewhat distracted while I clear it up! The job still not completed as I print *The Ovington Oracles*.

Solar News:

Full moon is 2 April (at 3:11am). Native Northern Americans call April's full moon the "Pink Moon" after a species of early blooming wildflower.

April is often a good time to see **earthshine** a phenomenon a few days either side of a new moon (17 April) where the unlit portion of the moon is faintly illuminated by light reflected from the earth.

The Lyrid Meteor Shower is usually most active around April 22 or 23 with a meteor every 3 minutes or so.



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Village events this month:

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

VH=Village Hall Event, C=Church, PCM=Parochial Church Meeting
Y=Yoga, YC=Youth Club, B=Bowls,

Parish Council: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

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

Litter Pick Report

Timothy Birt

Saturday 21 March was perfect for a litter pick, sunny but not too warm. After a safety briefing we posed for a photo at the village sign.



While most started at the village sign spreading out in all directions, a smaller contingent started from North Ovington clearing the litter strewn ditches adjacent the trod. The total collected was less than previous years, in no small part because some villagers are out regularly litter picking on their own – it really makes a noticeable difference, thank you.

Afterwards we met at the village hall for a most wonderful spread including two varieties of hot soup & bread, and mountains of pies, sausage rolls, etc, etc. and then there was cake and lots of it!

Thanks to all who took part in both the litter pick and the production of such a feast afterwards.

Rainfall

Tim



February 2026 rainfall total: 69.1mm (2 ³/₄").

As of 25 March the monthly running total is just 16mm, but some rain is forecast before the end of the month.

Spring is well established with some pleasant sunny days – hopefully, I'm not tempting fate to bite back by mentioning it?

Village Hall (VH)

Mike Howes (Village Hall Trustee)

Report Curry Night (28 February)

A fully booked evening. Everybody who attended had a great time. We were spoilt with a selection of 7 delicious curries, as much as you could eat!

If that was not enough our ladies excelled themselves with a delicious selection of sweets, including banoffee pie, key lime pie, fruit salad, and tiramisu to name but a few.

Many thanks go to Stewart our master chef, Christine for all her organisation skills and everybody else who contributed to making such a great event. We also had a quiz.

Report AGM & Election of Committee (Wednesday 4 March)

Seven committee nominations had been received but as the Constitution only allows for five elected members a ballot was held and conducted by our Parish Councillor Tim Birt. Those elected were later assigned their roles within the committee as follows:

Chairman – Dave Welsted,
Treasurer – Richard Moss,
Secretary – Rosemary Jones,
Hall Bookings & Website/Oracle – Mike Howes,
Publicity – Kaz Mason.

The Committee then co-opted two further members:

Maintenance – Stuart Burgess and "No special Portfolio" – David Lloyd.

The Treasurer reported that financially 2025 had been a good year with Hall hire increased by £1,225 and at year end there was a total surplus of £4,351; this helps to offset last year's high building maintenance costs.

The new committee of seven look forward to serving Ovington residents and friends and have a list of events for the coming year.

We would like to thank all those who continue to help in the running of the hall.

Forthcoming Events:

Calling all Bookworms – Saturday 18 April 10:00-4:00pm.

Bookworm bookstalls are coming to Ovington where they are holding a second hand bookstall.

Prices from 25p, refreshments served all day.

Afternoon Tea – Sunday 17 May.

This is always a very popular event and tickets will be sold very quickly. Gluten free and vegetarian options available.

Tickets from Kaz, adults: £15 and children under 10: £10

Ovington is Going Country – Saturday 11 July at 12:30pm.

Back by popular demand we welcome again '*The Flying Line Dancers*'. Last year was great fun and enjoyed by all. Get dressed up!

£10 per person to include food, but bring your own bottle.

An Evening of Mediumship with Jon Julian – 5 Oct 7:00 for 7:30pm

Book early so as to avoid disappointment.

£10 per person paid in advance. Tickets from Kaz: 07880935765

Should be an interesting evening.

Regular Events:

- Coffee mornings every Monday from 10:30am to noon. Tea, coffee and plenty of cake!
- Yoga classes every Tuesday.
- Indoor carpet bowls alternate Wednesdays 7:00 for 7:30pm, come and try your skill.
- Youth Club last Friday of the month.

The Village Hall is available to hire, only £6 per hour for village residents or £12 if you live outside the village. Please ring Mike on 07733236689 (mike@snicket.uk).

Website: ovingtonvillagehall.co.uk

The VH Trustees

Parish Council (PC)

Laurie Shepherd – Parish Clerk

A report based on the draft minutes of the 18 March meeting.

Present: Cllrs David Welsted (DW), Pete Bate (PB), Tim Birt (TB), Karen Weir (KW) and Krissy Marwood (KM).

In attendance: The Clerk and 1 member of the public.

Apologies: DC Helen Crane, CC Claire Bowes

Matters arising (from previous minutes):

Confirmation on the figures from Norfolk regarding the “hike” in business rates have yet to be received from CC Claire Bowes. TB to chase

District Councillor Reports: Reports from PB and Helen Crane received and will be posted on website.

Correspondence: none

Planning matters:

- PL/2026/0046/HOU (22 The Street)

Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and conservatory, and erection of two storey and single storey extension to rear elevation.

Decision Issued: Granted with Conditions

Accounts and Precept update:

<i>Payments Received</i>		<i>Payments to be made</i>	
None	£0.00	HMRC (Nov/Dec/Jan)	£2.40
		Bank Charge (Jan/Feb)	£8.50
		Clerk's expenses (Feb/Mar)	£18.26

Reviewed by Councillors and agreed unanimously.

To review and approve policies:

- Standing Orders – After a discussion, TB proposed to change the word “request” under Meetings Generally: Item E to “require” then adopt the document.
- Code of Conduct – no changes.

- Financial Regulations – The Clerk explained an edit to allow expenses to be paid via BACS.
- Statement of Internal Control – no changes.

All policies agreed unanimously.

Telephone Box Update:

DW updated the Council that the weather has been a deterrent to any progress. He's briefly looked into renovation companies, but it will most likely be financially unviable. As the weather improves, he and other Councillors will look into replacing the wood on the door and repainting.

Highways or Village Issues:

Potholes are increasing. The Clerk asked Councillors to send through photos and locations so that they can be reported. There was a discussion over the gullies, condition of the road and verges. Clerk to inform Highways that road widths must not change and the verges need reinforcing.

KM asked if bus services would consider a 'Stop on Request' location on the north end of Ovington. Clerk to ask.

Future Business:

- Telephone box update
- Otterwood Farm Update
- Breckland Land Assets

Next Meeting(s):

13 May 2026 at 7:30pm in Village Hall, then:
8 July, 16 September, 25 November.

PC documents at:

ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

St John's Church News

Jean Rockett-Woods (JR-W)



During Easter Week there will be additional services held in our Benefice churches of Ashill, Merton, Ovington and Saham Toney:

Mon	30 Mar – 7:00pm	Compline – St Peter's Merton	Rev PM
Tue	31 Mar – 7:00pm	Compline – St Peter's Merton	JR-W
Wed	1 Apr – 7:00pm	Compline – St Peter's Merton	Rev PM
Thu	2 Apr – 7:30pm	Maunday Thursday Holy Communion <u>Ovington</u>	Rev PM
Fri	3 Apr – 10:00am	Good Friday Scriptural Stations of the Cross – St George, Saham Toney Meet at Wells Cole Community Hall	Rev PM
Fri	3 Apr – 2:00pm	Good Friday – St Nicholas, Ashill	Rev PM
Sat	4 Apr – 7:30pm	Easter Eve Vigil St George, Saham Toney	Rev PM
Sun	5 Apr – 10:30am	Easter Day , Family Service	<u>Ovington</u> JR-W
Sun	12 Apr – 10:30am	Morning Praise	<u>Ovington</u> JR-W
Sun	19 Apr – 10:30am	Family Service	<u>Ovington</u> JR-W
Sun	26 Apr – 10:30am	Book of Common Prayer	<u>Ovington</u> JR-W
Sun	26 Apr – 11:30am	Annual Parochial Church Meeting in the Village Hall . All are welcome.	

We are now in the season of Easter. The English term may derive from the Anglo-Saxon goddess name Ēostre; Easter is linked to the Jewish Passover. According to the synoptic Gospels, both the crucifixion and the resurrection took place during the week of Passover. In most European languages, both the Christian Easter and the Jewish Passover are called by the same name; and in the older English translations of the Bible, as well, the term Easter was used to translate Passover.

Easter traditions vary across the Christian world, and include sunrise services or late-night vigils, exclamations and exchanges of Paschal greetings, flowering the cross, the wearing of Easter bonnets by women, and the decoration and the communal breaking of Easter eggs (a symbol of the empty tomb). The Easter lily, a symbol of the resurrection in Western Christianity, traditionally decorates the chancel area of churches on this day and for the rest of Eastertide. Additional customs that have become associated with Easter and are observed by both Christians and some non-Christians include the Easter Bunny and egg hunting.

When Jeremy and I moved from Ovington the Easter Bunny moved with us. However, if children come along to the Easter Service in Ovington church I am sure that there will be an Easter egg available for each child.

With love in Christ,

Jean (07749 870485)

Enquirers' Group

Revd Patrick Morrow

*"I used to go to church, but ...
... then I fell out with God;
... then life took over, and I felt I couldn't find the time;
... then I couldn't make sense of it – I mean: look at the world!"*

I've been your priest-in-charge for over a year now. The villages are friendly, no question about it. I am used to spontaneous conversations as I walk down the road. These are often about the weather, as is right and proper. But messages like those above have been a distinctive feature. It has been striking how quickly people have cut to the heart of things, and spoken of their spiritual pasts and presents.

You won't find me – ever – standing on any street corner and shouting out Bible verses. Even if you come to Church, I won't set out to persuade you to believe what I believe. There is a line in 2 Corinthians which always moves me (2 Cor 1.24). I know it best in a German translation, because I read that Pope Benedict XVI quoted it, way back when he was first made priest. It says: "We are not masters of your faith, but servants of your joy." I see my priestly role in that way.

In that same spirit, it does seem to me that there may be people in the villages who'd be up for a meeting to talk through, say, the things that really irritate them about God, and/or the credibility of the Christian story, and/or, well, how to find sustaining hope and meaning.

You'll have guessed I am asking if this is you. **Would you like to at least have a taste of an Enquirers' Group?** It would be a chance to have an unpressured and open-ended discussion, with plenty of refreshments. I promise no expectations that you'll end up a committed churchgoer. I may hope that your perspective - and the perspectives of the Christians among us, and not least me - will be enriched by the encounter.

I am not at the stage of having a date, time, or location yet. I imagine it being a "course" of six or so sessions initially, and then, let's see. If this is something you'd like to explore, please let me know.

Revd Patrick Morrow,

Email: patrickmorrow@live.co.uk

Tel: 01760 330258

Youth Club

Kaz Mason



Meets last Friday of the month
at the Village Hall 6:00 – 8:00pm

For ages 6–16 years

FREE entry, squash & biscuits

Tuck-shop selling: Milkshakes, Fizzy Drinks,
Crisps, Chocolate Bars, Sweets and
Home-made Goodies.

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

Please txt / call if you wish your child to attend.

Ovington Youth Club earned the 'Welcomes Young Carers 2025' badge.
Kaz & Jo (Ovington Youth Club Leaders) – 07880935765

And Finally

Tim

"Spring" in the sense of the season comes from phrases such as "springing time" (14th century) and "the spring of the year".

The word is derived from an antiquated noun meaning "act or time of springing or appearing; the first appearance; the beginning, birth, rise, or origin".

Spring as a word in general appeared via the Middle English springen, via the Old English springan. These were verbs meaning to rise up or to burst forth but are not believed to have originally related to the season.



Submission deadline for next issue: 23 April

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