

The Ovington Oracle

May, 2026



The Ovington Oracle is a produced monthly and delivered to every house in the village, a few copies are also sent further afield.

The Oracle has no 'paid-for' advertising and is edited, printed and delivered by volunteers. The Parish Council pays for paper and toner expenses, about £250 per year (12 issues).

Sharing interesting snippets from real village life add greatly to *The Ovington Oracle*, just 150 words makes a half page story.

See back cover for where to send contributions.

Solar News:

Full moon is 1 May (at 6:23pm), sometimes referred to as “flower moon”. The Anglo-Saxon’s name was “Milk Moon” from the Old English Rimilcemon. It means three-milkings-month in modern English because cows were milked three times a day during this time of year.

The new moon is 16 May and will be a ‘supermoon’ because the slightly elliptical orbit brings the moon closer to earth and therefore it looks larger (technical name for the closest point is the perigee).



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Village events this month:

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

VH=Village Hall Event, C=Church, PC=Parish Council
Y=Yoga, YC=Youth Club, B=Bowls,

Parish Council: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

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

Ann Harris

Karen Weir



It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of the lovely Ann Harris, on the 9 April.

Clive has asked me to let you all know that her funeral is taking place at Breckland Crematorium on Monday 11 May at 11:00am.

Please join us if you can.

Karen Weir (funeral celebrant)

Parish Council (PC)

Laurie Shepherd – Parish Clerk

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

Rainfall

Tim



March 2026 rainfall total: 20.8mm (¹³/₁₆").

As of 25 April we are in "drought mode" with the monthly running total standing at just 4.6mm, with nothing in the forecast until next month!

On the 'bright side' we have had plenty of sunshine.

Village Hall (VH)

Mike Howes (Village Hall Trustee)

Forthcoming Events:

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: 07880435765

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

Ashill Group exists in Law

Revd Patrick Morrow

I confess: I do like the poems of Philip Larkin. He flourished in my home city of Hull, where he lived for three decades, but was unkind about it. I forgive him. Here is an extract of one of his powerful poems:

The Trees

The trees are coming into leaf
Like something almost being said;
The recent buds relax and spread,
Their greenness is a kind of grief...

Yet still the unresting castles thresh
In fullgrown thickness every May.
Last year is dead, they seem to say,
Begin afresh, afresh, afresh.

We may have to think about what an “unresting castle” is, and how it would “thresh”, but we can do that (and maybe come to different answers). Overall the poem makes ready sense. The year is new! The year is fresh! That freshness draws us in, and even comes as a command!

I will be blunt: it is easier to resonate with this whole notion, when we live in the countryside. I had to do more work for it to resonate, when I lived in London. I will say, though, that it was still possible.

There is another side to this. Every time we immerse ourselves in the uniqueness of this particular new spring, we ourselves are (guess what?) a year older. As a child, that is great, of course (I remember it). As an adult, well, let's just say there comes a tipping point. There comes a point when the freshness is still lovely, but it feels it has less and less to do with us. That has to be part of why Larkin says: “Their greenness is a kind of grief”. It is well known that Larkin was a man who knew unhappiness, and didn't like ageing, or indeed much change at all. But! But he still managed to sing the praises of spring, and of May, and of trees, all in ways which spoke to others.

I happen to think we can all do something like this. Turn our negatives into positives by, well, yes, making (say) a poem out of them. Families do this, at funerals, week in and week out. I wonder if we can do more of this.

By the way – and this is prose and not poetry – the Ashill Group now exists in law, and I am legally Rector of the Ashill Group, which means the parishes of Ashill, Merton, Ovington, and Saham Toney. I am very happy about this!

Revd Patrick Morrow,

Email: patrickmorrow@live.co.uk

Tel: 01760 330258

St John's Church News

Jean Rockett-Woods (JR-W)

Sun	3 May – 10:30am	Holy Communion	PM
Sun	10 May – 10:30am	Morning Worship – Rogation Sunday	JR-W
Sun	17 May – 10:30am	Family Service	JR-W
Sun	24 May – 10:30am	Book of Common Prayer	JR-W
Sun	31 May – 10:30am	No service at Ovington Benefice service at Merton	

Arch Deacon Catherine Dobson



This month we are celebrating Pentecost, which in 2026 will be observed on Sunday, 24 May. Many people ask why the date of Pentecost changes each year and how it is determined. The answer is directly connected to Easter, which is explained below.

Pentecost always occurs fifty days after Easter Sunday. This is why its date changes every year. Since Easter itself does not have a fixed date and is based on the lunar calendar, Pentecost also moves each year.

Easter is calculated as the first Sunday after the first full moon following

the spring equinox. Once the date of Easter is known, Pentecost is simply counted forward by fifty days. This places Pentecost on a Sunday, seven weeks after Easter.

The name "Pentecost" comes from a Greek word meaning "fiftieth," reflecting this exact timing.

In the Bible, Pentecost was originally a Jewish feast known as the Feast of Weeks. It was celebrated fifty days after Passover and was associated with the harvest. This explains why many people from different regions were present in Jerusalem (see Acts 2).

For Christians, Pentecost took on a deeper meaning. It became the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the followers of Jesus. This event marked the beginning of the spread of the Christian message. It was not planned by human effort. It began with divine action.

Understanding the date helps place the event in context. Pentecost is not an isolated moment. It follows the resurrection of Jesus and continues the sequence of events that began at Easter. That is why the date changes. This year Pentecost falls on 24 May, but its significance remains the same every year: it reminds believers of the same event recorded in Acts 2. It marks the moment when fear turned into boldness and when a small group became a growing movement.

With love in Christ,

Jean (07749 870485)

Youth Club

Kaz Mason

6:00 – 8:00pm last Friday of the month

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: Ovington Youth Club, Norfolk

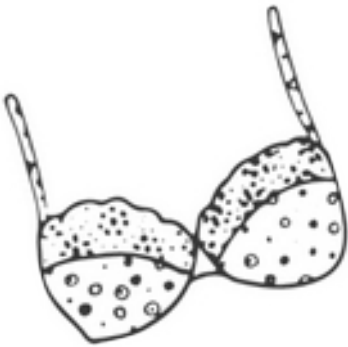
Please txt / call Kaz if you wish your child to attend: 07880935765

Ovington Youth Club earned the 'Welcomes Young Carers 2025' badge.

Don't burn your bras!

Ann Johnson

Calling all Ladies ...



LADIES please don't burn your bras but bring them down to me and support a breast cancer charity. Seriously, all ill fitting and worn-out bras can benefit the breast cancer charity. If the charity receives one ton in weight they will benefit by £750. I shall be taking all the bras to a pre-loved shop in Sheringham in the middle of May, so please leave any unwanted bras in my porch (47 The Street) before 10 May.

Thank you in anticipation.

Ann

And Finally

Tim

- >> Why is May the best time of the month to buy a mattress?
... It's when they are the most springy.
- >> In popular culture 'May the fourth' is Star Wars day, but which month do dedicated fans celebrate?
... Imperial March!
- >> Which is the shortest month?
... May (with just 3 letters).
- >> What do you call a spring time emergency?
... It's a mayday, mayday, mayday!



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