

The Ovington Oracle

June, 2026

With UV levels very high, remember:



SLIP on some sun-protective clothing.

SLOP on some broad spectrum, water resistant SPF30+ (or greater) sunscreen.

SLAP on a hat to protect your face, head, neck and ears.

SEEK shade from the sun wherever possible, especially between 10:00am and 3:00pm when the UV is at its peak.

SLIDE on some polarised sunglasses.

Solar News:

The summer solstice is 21 June (at 9:24am), where the sun will be above the horizon for 16 hours 51 minutes and 23 seconds. Make the most of it because the following day it is 4 seconds shorter.

Full moon is 30 June (at 12:56am), sometimes referred to as "strawberry moon".

Both Venus and Jupiter make a close approach on 9 June, visible above the west to north-west horizon just after sunset.



Contents

Annual Parish Meeting.....	3
Parish Council (PC) AGM.....	3
County Council Election Results.....	6
Ovington Bra News!.....	6
Enquirers' Group and Sing-along.....	7
Village Hall (VH).....	8
Rainfall.....	9
St John's Church News.....	10
Youth Club.....	11
And Finally.....	12

Village events this month:

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

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

Parish Council: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

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

Annual Parish Meeting

Laurie Shepherd – Parish Clerk

Held at 7:30pm on 13 May, just prior to the Parish Council meeting, this was an opportunity for the various local organisations to present a report on their activities and answer questions from the public.

Reports were received from the Parish Council, Village Hall, Fuel Trust, St John The Evangelist Church, Allotment Association, Ovington Oracle and District Councillors, but unfortunately no report from the outgoing County Councillor. Reports are available on the Parish Council website:

ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Parish Council (PC) AGM

Laurie Shepherd – Parish Clerk

A report of the meeting on 13 May based on the unconfirmed minutes.

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

In attendance:

The Clerk, one member of the public and DC Helen Crane

Selection of Chair/Vice-chair:

A Chair (KW) and Vice-chair (PB) were elected by their peers and duly signed acceptance of Office.

Previous Minutes and Matters Arising (not already on the agenda)

TB gave a report on the Litter Pick. It was well attended by around 20 people and due to intermittent litter picking over the year there was not an overwhelming amount of rubbish to collect.

A few potholes around the village have been filled. Ovington Parish Council encourage residents to report potholes to Norfolk County Council – Highways for repair.

Finally, the verges need reinforcing. Clerk to chase Highways.

To Review and Approve Documents:

Asset Register – TB said that the convex mirror can be taken off the register as it was tried (unsuccessfully) and got damaged. All agreed.

General Risk Management – After a brief discussion, the document was agreed unanimously.

End of Year Financial Matters

All paperwork was circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting.

1. To receive the internal auditor's report and Financial Summary for 2025/26
 - Received and noted.
2. To consider whether to sign the Certificate of Exemption and if so to authorise the Clerk and Chairman to sign, agreed unanimously.
 - The Clerk and Chair signed the document.
3. To consider the assertions on the Annual Statement of Governance 2025/26 and to authorize the clerk and Chairman to sign.
 - The clerk read through the assertions to the Council. There was a discussion over the final assertion and the need to implement a gov.uk email address to comply with Assertion 10. Clerk to send around options, after further discussion it was agreed unanimously.
4. To consider and approve the Annual Accounting Statement 2025/26 and authorise the Chairman to sign.
 - The clerk displayed the Accounting Statement. Agreed unanimously and signed as accurate by KW
5. To confirm the process by which electors may exercise their rights of inspection of Annual Return
 - Confirmed

Correspondence:

Clerk's report – The Clerk's report is available on the website.

Planning:

Reference: PL/2026/0531/FMIN

Location: Land Off Church Road, Ovington, IP25 6RZ

Retrospective permission for the erection of a barn and conversion of barn to kennels and installation of dog runs for Mr. Joseph Brown.

A resident spoke on this application at length raising issues such as access, land usage, and concerns over actions on the property. TB gave a brief rundown on valid planning points that the Council can object with i.e. the access road being unsuitable and a public foot path, potential for noise nuisance and traffic increase. After further discussion, it was unanimously agreed to object to the application with TB to draft a response based on discussion.

After further conversation, it was agreed for the Council to report this site to the enforcement officers as well to inspect the potential breach of use. Clerk to action.

Accounts and Precept update:

<i>Payments Received</i>	<i>Payments to be made</i>
Breckland Council	A Baker (internal audit) £60.00
Precept first instalment £3,096.00	Norwich Diocesan £637.50
	Insurance £353.30
	Ovington Oracle £250.50
	HMRC £7.20
	Bank Charge (Mar/Apr) £8.50
	Clerk's expenses (Apr/May) £25.18

Agreed unanimously. KW signed the bank reconciliations.

Updates:

- Telephone box – Chair KW arranged with PB to form a working party to get the rotted wood at the base replaced.
- Otterwood Farm – DC Helen Crane informed the Council that this site has been recommended for review and DC Lynda Turner will be speaking at the committee meeting. If denied, it will most likely go on to appeal.
- Breckland Land Assets – While there is adequate interest in adopting the land assets available in Ovington, it was agreed that a ball park estimate of what legal fees will cost must be received before making a decision. Clerk to action.

Highways or Village Issues:

There are a few drainage issues throughout the village. There is some garden rubbish on Back Road. If still present later in the week, the Chair will inform the clerk to report it as flytipping.

Next Meeting(s):

8 July 2026 at 7:30pm in Village Hall,

then: 16 September, 25 November.

PC documents at:

ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

County Council Election Results

Tim

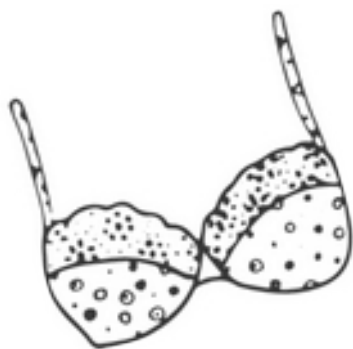
Yare And Necton Turnout: 4729 (48.62%)

Kabeer Kher	Reform UK	2105	45%
Marshall Bunting	Conservative	1224	26%
Marie Brennan	Green	584	12%
Joe Sisto	Labour	488	10%
Ulrike Behrendt	Liberal Democrat	328	7%

Kabeer Kher is our new County Councillor and will be invited to our next Parish Council meeting (8 July).

Ovington Bra News!

Ann Johnson



A very big 'thank you' to all who left bras in my porch. They were all taken to a pre-loved shop in Sheringham owned by a lovely lady called Claire. The total collected from you, and friends in Watton, was 181 and we are currently on top of the leaderboard, and we are known as 'Friends of Ovington'. The bras in good condition are shipped to ladies in third world countries, affording them dignity for the first time in their lives. The bras in not quite so good

condition are recycled, earning money for the breast cancer research charity, so it is a win/win situation. I'm still happy to accept any more bras from you but will have a big purge again in a few months' time. Claire is continuing to collect bras until she reaches her goal – a ton in weight – and I am happy to continue to help her as it is a charity close to my own heart.

Thank you again for your support.

Ann

Enquirers' Group and Sing-along

Revd Patrick Morrow

Warmest thanks to those who have been in touch about my idea of an "Enquirers' Group", for anyone wanting to know more about Christianity and the Church, to help think things through – without any kind of commitment required or implied. My plan is that by the time you read this, I will have replied to you, to make things concrete. But there's still plenty of time for others to express an interest.

One big question is going to be where to meet. For context, I am now officially Rector of "the Ashill Group", and that is the churches and parishes of Ashill, Merton, Ovington, and Saham Toney. Of course, I have in effect been in this role for over a year, but the legal wheels of the Church of England move slowly. It has, though, happened – on 1 April. I'm not going to say anything about the appropriateness of the date!

Now, from bureaucracy to beauty! I am going to muse about the majesty of music. Not for the first time, and probably not for the last, I'd like to encourage singing. In three of our parishes, we are planning *Hymns for a Summer's Evening*. Whatever your beliefs, do you not remember a hymn or song from school, Sunday school, or a time in your life? Or are you a regular churchgoer who'd just like a chance to say: Can we please sing this one, just because it's my favourite? Or do you want a chance to sing a song you don't actually know? You are all in luck! If you want to gather in an informal way, simply to sing some hymns and reflect on their meaning, you are most welcome to join us. We'll wrap it up with some prayers, but there won't be a sermon, and we are not shaping it as "worship". It is a "Singalong". I'll say it again though: Who sings, prays twice. On each occasion, it's a Sunday, at 6:30pm

- 26 July: St John the Evangelist, Ovington
- 23 August: St Nicholas', Ashill
- 6 September: St George's, Saham Toney

Please send your hymn choices to me, at my NEW email address (there will also be forms in the three churches):

Email: frpatrickmorrow@gmail.com

Revd Patrick Morrow,
Tel: 01760 330258

Village Hall (VH)

Mike Howes (Village Hall Trustee)

Event Review:

Bookworm Sale Saturday 18 April

Several months ago we were asked to hold a 'Bookworm Sale'. This was a sale of second-hand books from £1 onwards. This was agreed and the sale was held on Saturday 18 April.

A great deal of preparation was carried out, this started on the day before (Friday) where the general layout was worked out, ie where the tables and shelves were to be placed.

This took nearly 6 hours and I must admit ,the general layout of the books was very good ...

... Saturday arrived with teas and coffee together with a lovely selection of cakes and sausage rolls made by our lovely committee ladies.

We all helped out, each doing an hourly rota.

The Bookworm Sale was successful. Feedback was good and we were asked to hold another sale on Saturday 26 September.

Forthcoming Events:

Quiz Night – Friday 12 June. 7:00 for 7:30pm start.

Tea and coffee will be available. We will also be having a raffle.

£3 per person and max of 6 in a team. Tickets from Kaz: 07880435765

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.

Further details of these events go to our Facebook page or our web-site:
ovingtonvillagehall.co.uk

Regular Events:

- Coffee mornings every Monday from 10:30am to noon. Tea, coffee and plenty of cake!
- Yoga classes every Tuesday, 7:00-8:00pm.
- 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).

If you wish to contact the committee with any ideas etc please e-mail
ovingtonvillagehall.ovington@gmail.com

Rainfall

Tim



April 2026 rainfall total: 4.8mm ($\frac{3}{16}$ ").

As of 27 May we are still in a low rain phase with the monthly running total standing at 33.5mm, most of which fell in two brief rainy periods earlier in the month.

St John's Church News

Jean Rockett-Woods (JR-W)

Sun	7 June – 10:30am Holy Communion	PM
Sun	14 June – 10:30am Morning Worship	JR-W
Sun	21 June – 10:30am Family Service	JR-W
Sun	28 June – 10:30am Book of Common Prayer	JR-W



We celebrated Pentecost in our church last month. It was the last day of the Easter season. Before the 'Easter' Paschal candle was extinguished each member of the congregation lit a single candle from it, which they then took home as a reminder of what Jesus Christ did for us, giving His life so that we might be saved.

Jesus had visited His disciples and gave them the authority to take his message to all. Those people that Jesus chose to be his disciples were just ordinary people; not kings or Jewish leaders; no, they were people like you and me. From many followers he chose the 12 Disciples, known as the Apostles. He called Peter: a Fisherman, James (son of Zebedee): a Fisherman, John: a Fisherman, Andrew: a Fisherman (Peter's brother), Philip: a Fisherman, Bartholomew (Nathanael): Unknown, possibly a fisherman, Matthew (Levi): a Tax collector, Thomas (Didymus): Unknown, often referred to as "Doubting Thomas", James (son of Alphaeus): Unknown, Thaddeus (Judas, son of James): Unknown

Simon the Zealot: Zealot (a member of a political movement), Judas Iscariot: Treasurer (betrayed Jesus).

Jesus is still calling disciples to spread his message. Jesus' central message was, and is, the coming of the Kingdom of God, calling people to repentance, faith, love, and service:

Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

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.

Stop looking at this until you
have read the back page!

1x1:	64
2x2:	49
3x3:	36
4x4:	25
5x5:	16
6x6:	9
7x7:	4
8x8:	1
total:	204

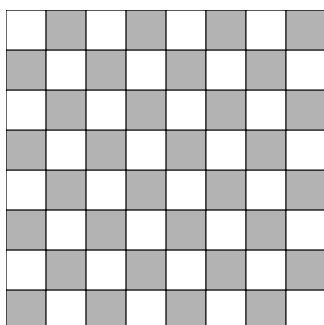
It is the sum of square numbers.

And Finally

Tim

Puzzle:

How many squares can you outline on a chess board?



Note you can use multiple smaller squares to make larger ones, answer bottom of previous page.

Thoughtful Quotes on Mathematics:

- Pure mathematics is, in its way,
the poetry of logical ideas. Albert Einstein
- Mathematics is the language with which
God has written the universe. Galileo Galilei
- The highest form of pure thought is in mathematics.
Plato
- Mathematics is the supreme judge;
there is no appeal from its decisions. Tobias Dantzig
- Biology (life) is merely applied Chemistry
which in turn is just applied Physics
which ultimately is applied Mathematics. (Tim)

Submission deadline for next issue: 23 June

Edit and Production: Timothy Birt (01953-889208)
(on recycled paper using an Ecosys printer) Stone House Farm, The Street. IP25 6RT

Proof reader: Christine Reilly (885848)

Please send contributions to above or email: oracle@ovington.org.uk