

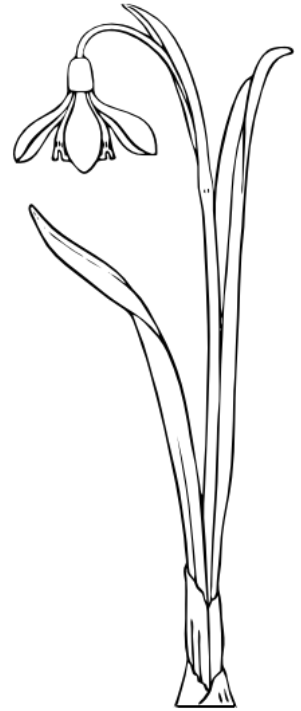
# *The Ovington Oracle*

February, 2025

As the snowdrops appear we reflect on the loss of long standing members of our community.

## **Life, by Charlotte Brontë (1816 – 1855)**

Life, believe, is not a dream  
So dark as sages say;  
Oft a little morning rain  
Foretells a pleasant day.  
Sometimes there are clouds of gloom,  
But these are transient all;  
If the shower will make the roses bloom,  
O why lament its fall?  
Rapidly, merrily,  
Life's sunny hours flit by,  
Gratefully, cheerily  
Enjoy them as they fly!  
What though Death at times steps in,  
And calls our Best away?  
What though sorrow seems to win,  
O'er hope, a heavy sway?  
Yet Hope again elastic springs,  
Unconquered, though she fell;  
Still buoyant are her golden wings,  
Still strong to bear us well.  
Manfully, fearlessly,  
The day of trial bear,  
For gloriously, victoriously,  
Can courage quell despair!



## Contents

We Remember .....	3
Village Hall (VH).....	4
Youth Club.....	5
Parish Council (PC).....	6
Church News.....	8
Village Messages.....	9
Rainfall.....	9
Village Bus Service.....	10
Out of Village Events.....	11
And Finally.....	12

### Village events this month:

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

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

Parish Council: [ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home](http://ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home)

Oracle back copies (and more): [ovington.org.uk](http://ovington.org.uk)

Village Hall: [ovingtonvillagehall.co.uk](http://ovingtonvillagehall.co.uk)

---

## We Remember ...

Village

### **Lyndia Lewis**

It is with great sadness we report that Lyndia Lewis passed away in hospital on Wednesday 22 January following a brief illness. Lyndia was an immensely active member of our community making a contribution in most facets of village life over many decades. Her son, Guy, and daughter, Virginia, will be making funeral plans and details will follow.



### **Rod Rumsby**

Unfortunately, there is further sad news; another great stalwart of our village, Rod Rumsby, also passed away on Sunday morning, 26 January. Rod was another very active member of our community, he and Grace worked tirelessly for the Village Hall, The Youth Club (many years ago), Carpet Bowls, the Parish Council and many other aspects of village life over many decades. His daughters will be making funeral plans and details will follow.

### **Marlene Fickling**

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Marlene Fickling who passed away at the age of 90 early in December. Marlene had lived in Ovington for over 60 years. She was born in Carbrooke, brought up in Caudle Springs and had always worked in the local area. A familiar figure on her bicycle in all weathers, she was often seen transporting bags of shopping on the handlebars! For many years she kept the village hall clean and tidy and was fiercely proud that our lovely hall was so admired by visitors. Widowed after only 12 years of marriage, she worked extremely hard at a variety of jobs, including supporting older people in the village by cooking, cleaning and other small tasks. She loved all animals, domestic and wild, and always fed the wild birds in her garden. Ill health led to her spending her last few years in Shipdham Manor where the amazing staff took such good care of her. We extend our condolences to Lesley, her daughter.

---

# Village Hall (VH)

*Mike Howes (Village Hall Trustee)*

## **Events Review:**

### **New Year's Eve Party**

It seems a long time ago but we celebrated the new year with a party held at the village hall. There was a good turn out with karaoke, games and plenty of food.

It was a great night which finally ended at 2:00am.

### **Dan Star**

We welcomed Dan Star back to the village hall on 17 January. He seems to becoming a regular attraction with a nearly fully booked evening.

We all had a great time (especially the ladies!) and he is already booked to return in the latter part of the year.

## **Forthcoming Events:**

### **Curry Evening – 15 February**

This was incredibly popular last year and we have been asked many times when will this return. A great choice of curries will be provided by our ladies, under the watchful eye of our chief chef Stewart.

Places are still available.

### **Quiz Night – 29 March**

We will be having another quiz night on Saturday 29 March, 7:00pm for a 7:30 start. £3 per person. Max of 6 persons per table. Bring your own snacks and drinks.

Will be a fun night.

## **Regular Events:**

- Coffee mornings continue to be held every Monday morning at 10:30am. All are welcome, it is only £1 for as many cups of tea/coffee and a selection of cakes and sausage rolls.
- Youth Club on the last Friday of the month.
- Yoga classes every Tuesday.

- Indoor carpet bowls on alternate Wednesdays at 7:00-7:30pm.

You are all welcome.

### **AGM:**

Remember our Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday 19 February.

If you wish to be nominated to be on our committee, forms should be in as the deadline is 'by 1 February'. For details see the January Oracle.

The meeting is open to everybody, please come.

[ovingtonvillagehall.co.uk](http://ovingtonvillagehall.co.uk)

The VH Trustees

---

## Youth Club

*Kaz Mason*



Meets last Friday of the month  
at the Village Hall

For ages 8–14 years  
6:00 – 8:00pm

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

To ensure enough adult helpers please  
TXT or call if you wish your child to attend.

Kaz & Jo (Ovington Youth Club Leaders) – 07880935765

---

## Parish Council (PC)

*Laurie Shepherd – Parish Clerk*

A report from the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting on 22 January

**Present:** Cllrs Karen Weir (KW)(chair), David Welsted (DW), Pete Bate (PB), Timothy Birt (TB) and Jeremy Woods (JW)

**In Attendance:** The Clerk, DC Helen Crane

**Apologies:** CC Claire Bowes

### **Matters Arising:**

- A planning notification came in informing the Council of planned work to a TPO tree on Church Road
- JW informed the Council that he is in the process of selling his house and may not remain on the Parish Council.
- DW has procured the old Church key mentioned at the last meeting. It is being held by the Parochial Church Council. It was last used to lock the Church during COVID and is not normally used as there is an electronic lock.

### **Reports:**

- The reports from our district councillors were circulated prior to the meeting and are on the web-site.
- DC Crane detailed 'The Link Facility' in the old Council building in Dereham to connect many different services under one roof.

### **Planning (Notifications):**

APP/F2605/W/24/3343596: The Bungalow, Water End Farm, Church Road, OVINGTON. The appeal is made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) against a refusal to grant planning permission regarding planning application 3PL/2023/1134/F

**APPEAL DISMISSED**

### **Accounts and Precept update:**

#### 1. To decide on the Precept for 2025/26

There was a discussion on bolstering the ring fenced funds for 'Professional Fees'. It was decided to keep as-is which would mean only a 2% increase was need to balance the budget. DW proposed, TB seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Clerk to send off relevant paperwork

2. Payments Received: None

3. Payments to be made: None

### **Highways or Village Issues**

1. TB has had an email from a parishioner who came off the trod due to the surface being unstable. TB proposed to speak to highways asking for the surface to be addressed. Clerk to action
2. TB discussed his FoI request to Breckland Council regarding car park budgets. The response indicated that the average cost of running car parks was lower than claimed during the consultation. However, he noted that the whole issue could be side-lined if local government reorganisation removes Breckland Council.
3. JW discussed the flooding issue at the end of Church Road. TB to discuss with Highways if an engineer is able to come out to address the issue on the trod.

### **Future Business**

1. Community table
2. Litter Pick

### **Adjournment for Public Participation:**

There is concern that a 'Community Table' might become a public dumping ground.

### **Next Meeting:**

19 March in the Village Hall at 7:30pm

Councillors agreed future meetings on: 28 May (AGM & APM), 16 July, 17 September, 19 November.

### **PC documents at:**

[ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home](http://ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home)

---

## Church News

*Jean Rockett-Woods (JR-W)*

### Services:

2 Feb – 10:30am	Holy Communion	(Revd. Adrian Bell)
9 Feb – 10:30am	Morning Praise	(JR-W)
16 Feb – 10:30am	Family Service	(JR-W)
18 Feb – 6:00pm	Investiture of Revd. Patrick Morrow, St Nicholas church, Ashill	
23 Feb – 10:30pm	Book of Common Prayer	(JR-W)
2 Mar – 10:30am	Holy Communion	(Revd. Patrick Morrow)



I am so pleased that I can invite you all to a service for the investiture of our new Priest-in-charge, Patrick Morrow, who will be looking after our benefice of Ashill, Saham Toney, Merton and Ovington. This special service will be held in St Nicholas church, Ashill on Tuesday 18 February at 6:00pm. All are welcome to this service. We will be

having a collection prior to the service for a welcome parcel for Patrick. If you would like to make a donation, please put some money in an envelope and either post it through my letter box or that of David Welsted. Many thanks.

Where there are five Sundays in a month the Benefice take it in turn to hold a service for our four churches. On Sunday 30 March it will be the turn of Ashill church, and Patrick will be leading the service.

Revd. Adrian Bell has done a most wonderful job of taking the services in our churches since the retirement of Revd. Jane Atkins, and he will be sadly missed. He has kept us going and has put in many hours to the glory of God. I know that already he has been asked to lead worship in yet another benefice. Thank you Adrian for all that you have done to keep us fuelled with God's message.

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

Please decorate graves only with silk or fresh flowers. Unfortunately any

items made of glass, china, or plastic will be removed, as these could be broken or damaged when the grass mowers go around the graves.  
Thank you for your understanding.

May God bless you all and keep you all well and safe.

With love in Christ,

Jean (07749 870485)

---

## Village Messages

We are saddened to hear of the loss of two prominent members of our community, Rod and Lyndia and that are thoughts are with the families.

Krissy Marwood-Cross and John Madeley

---

## Rainfall

*Tim*



Total rainfall for December was 87.6mm ( $3 \frac{7}{16}$ ").

As of 26 January the monthly running total stood at 32.3mm

However, the forecast is for a number of named storms to roll by in the next week so I'm expecting that figure to increase.

---

## FREE Village Bus Service

*Timothy Birt*

As reported back in October, Konect have introduced a local bus service, the number 15. The service is shared with the number 82 which goes to Attleborough, so the timetable is quite short, nevertheless a useful community asset. It operates Monday to Saturday around Watton, Carbrooke, Saham and Ovington (our stop is opposite Crown Crescent). The timetable is separate from Watton services therefore quite difficult to find on the Konect web-site unless you know so here it is:

<a href="#">Watton, Edwards/PO</a>	10:15	12:15	14:15
<a href="#">Watton, Salmond Road</a>	10:20	12:20	14:20
<a href="#">Carbrooke, Bus Shelter</a>	10:25	12:25	14:25
<a href="#">Ovington, The Street</a>	10:30	12:30	14:30
<a href="#">Saham Hills, X-Roads</a>	10:33	12:33	14:33
<a href="#">Watton, Edwards/PO</a>	10:37	12:37	14:37

Official stops are quite far apart; if you live on the outskirts of the village, it will stop on clear stretches of road if you request it.

The Dereham Konect office have confirmed that **this is currently a FREE service.**

If you venture beyond the number 15 loop the charge depends on how far you travel there are various concessions, for more details see:

[www.konectbus.co.uk/which-ticket-do-i-need-my-journey](http://www.konectbus.co.uk/which-ticket-do-i-need-my-journey)

---

## Out of Village Events

**Norfolk Wildlife Trust** (Breckland Local Group)

Fiona Roat



It was good to have such a big turn out for NWT CEO Eliot Lyne's talk on 8th January. Especially as it was a very cold evening.

Eliot talked on NWT's Vision for the Future of Norfolk's wildlife and how the trust will be building on education and inclusivity, as he said you have to learn to love nature to want to help it. They are having a lot of success in the communities around Sweet Briar Marshes and hope to do similar work in our area, including Wayland Wood.

Personally I think it would be great to get more understanding of just what this lovely ancient wood has to offer and why we must conserve and protect it.

Our talk on 12 February follows our brief AGM and is James Symonds giving an update on the work of the NWT Brecks team's work last year.

On 12 March James returns with a talk on Lichens. As Eliot said James is a walking encyclopaedia and his enthusiasm and passion is amazing.

The Methodist Centre, High Street, Watton IP25 6AB starting at 7:30pm. Cost £3 non members, £2 members.

## And Finally

Tim

St Valentine's day is celebrated 14 February, some traditional things need to happen, if only I could recall what ...



What kind of flowers should you not give on  
Valentine's Day? Cauliflowers!

What did the couple say after they were struck by  
Cupid's arrow? "Ouch!"

Why did the apple go out with the banana?  
Because it couldn't find a date.

What do you call a squadron of baby Cupids?  
An infantry.

### Submission deadline for next issue: 21 February

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](mailto:oracle@ovington.org.uk)