

The Ovington Oracle

June, 2025



The summer solstice on Saturday 21 June at precisely 3:42am (BST). This is the exact moment that the Northern Hemisphere is most tilted towards the Sun, giving us a day length of 16 hours 50 minutes and 40 seconds, just one second longer than the day before!

I'm sure there will be much celebration at Stone Henge. As usual, I think it is an excellent excuse to open the cider, but maybe not that early in the morning!

Snippets about June:

- The name *June* is the modern adaption of the Latin word Junius.
- The Anglo Saxons referred to June as '*sera monath*', which translates to 'dry month'.
- Before Julius Caesar, the calendar had only 10 months, with June being the fourth. In 46BC he created the Julian calendar thus moving June to the sixth month.
- No other month in the year will start on the same weekday as June. [*An oft quoted fact which sounds significant but isn't really, the same is also true of May*]



Contents

Parish Council (PC).....	3
Annual Parish Meeting.....	3
Village Hall (VH).....	4
Shipdham Surgery Patient Participation Group.....	5
Summer	6
Rainfall.....	7
Messages.....	7
Church News.....	8
Youth Club.....	9
Out of Village Events.....	10
And Finally.....	12

Village events this month:

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

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

Parish Council: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

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

Village Hall: ovingtonvillagehall.co.uk

Parish Council (PC)

Laurie Shepherd – Parish Clerk

The 28 May AGM had not taken place when this month's *Ovington Oracle* was finalised, a report will be included in the July edition.

Next Meeting:

16 July in the Village Hall

Future meetings on: 17 September, 19 November.

PC documents at:

ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

STOP PRESS:

Village power outage:
PC AGM and APM delayed until Thursday 5 June

Annual Parish Meeting

Editor

The Annual Parish Meeting will have taken place by the time *The Ovington Oracle* is distributed. Reports from the various groups will be published on the Parish Council website in the Agenda's and Minutes section:

ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

We usually hear from:

- Parish Council
- Village Hall
- Fuel Trust
- Church
- Allotment Association
- Youth Club
- Oracle
- District Councillors
- County Councillor
- and sometimes
The Ovington Navy!

Village Hall (VH)

Mike Howes (Village Hall Trustee)

Review:

Sunday 11 May we held our very popular Afternoon Tea. This was, as usual, a sold out event.

The sandwiches, cakes followed by sumptuous sweets were on par with a very famous London Hotel. As much as you could eat and drink and everybody enjoyed themselves.

Our thanks, as usual go to all our ladies for all their hard work to make the day such a success.

We have decided to hold this event twice a year due to its popularity.

Forthcoming Events:

Saturday 31 May 7:00pm – Quiz Night

Due to the popularity of the last quiz night we will be holding another. £3 per person and max of 6 per team.

Sunday 1 June – First Aid (Bandages and dressings)

We are having a visit from our friends St John Ambulance for another First Aid course. Learn how to apply bandages for many accidents. It should be fun.

This is at 2:00pm-3:00pm. Come along it is free and very worth while.

Thursday 12 June – Wayland Players

The Wayland Players are presenting an '*Evening of One Act Comedies*'. Curtain up at 7:30pm.

This is their second visit to us. I am sure it will be a fun evening . £5 at the door.

Saturday 12 July – Ovington is 'Going Country'

A fun afternoon and evening of Music & Line Dancing. There will be a barbecue so should be a very good event.

£10 per person which includes food and entertainment. Why not dress up !

Please ring Kaz on 07880935765 for tickets.

Regular Events:

- Coffee mornings held every Monday morning at 10:30am.
- Youth Club on the last Friday of the month.
- Yoga classes every Tuesday.
- Indoor carpet bowls on alternate Wednesdays at 7:00-7:30pm.

The Village Hall is available to hire, only £6 per hour for village residents. Please ring Mike on 07733236689 (mike@snicket.uk) if you would like to make a booking.

ovingtonvillagehall.co.uk

The VH Trustees

Shipdham Surgery Patient Participation Group

Michelle Lupton (GP Assistant)

Your NHS needs YOU!

Be heard in your surgery!
Get Involved!

Why not join our Patient
Participation Group?

We work together to get
the best experience for
all and much more...

The Patient Participation Group (PPG) is a way of including patients who wish to help improve our service.

We hold meetings every 3 months. These meetings enable our patients to be involved in the decision making relating to the delivery of services at the surgery.

Agenda items include practice campaigns such as annual Flu vaccine clinics.

The PPG may assist the surgery by spreading the word within the community, for example posters in local shops or community centre / village hall.

We would ideally like a maximum of 12 members.
(A waiting list can be set up if numbers exceed this).

The roles of Chairperson and Secretary are still to be established within the group.

More information regarding the PPG can be provided upon enquiry.

Please email nwicb.shipdhamsurgery@nhs.net – FAO: Michelle

Summer ...

Revd Patrick Morrow

Sumer is icumen in, lhude sing cuccu!

Do you know the medieval round that begins thus? If you don't, look it up now. It will put you in a summer-loving mood. It says: "Summer has come in; loudly sing cuckoo". I'm so pleased that God, or circumstance, or maybe both together, have placed me back in a rural setting, where the seasons really mean something, mean everything.

The truth is that there isn't really a wholly natural way of dividing up the year. Other cultures regularly have 13 months, and yet others have five or more seasons. But we know what an English summer is (Norfolk really isn't that different from my native Yorkshire, though it is less foggy).

I've long learned that to have expectations that summer will be consistently hot and sunny are wasted (after 1976). And that is fine. What summer is, is the time when we can really relish nature, and growth, and fertility, and colour.

At least that is what summer should be. One thing I noticed last summer was how few butterflies I saw. (I mean in Norfolk, where I then worked, and Suffolk, where I lived). As a child, I was surrounded by them in the summer months, and this isn't nostalgia. I admit I was a bit of a geek. I did log how many Cabbage Whites, Red Admirals, Peacocks, etc, I had seen. But I'd have struggled to trouble my pencil this last summer.

The reasons for this are doubtless complex and involved. I am not going to get on my – or any – high horse, but something may be amiss. I need to learn from you what you have already thought about this.

That's a serious discussion, but not one that stops us from rejoicing that summer is icumen in!

Please note that there is a special Ashill Group service at St Peter's, Merton, at 9.30, on 29 June, which is happily the Feast of St Peter. You are invited.

Revd Patrick Morrow,

Email: patrickmorrow@live.co.uk

Tel: 01760 330258

Rainfall

Tim



Total rainfall for April was just 14.5mm ($\frac{9}{16}$ ").

As of 25 May the monthly running total stood at a tiny 5.8mm; we are in drought mode! Hopefully the forecast rain will arrive to green things up a bit!

Messages

Villagers

Advanced Notice: Big Charity Coffee Morning

I will be holding a Big Charity Coffee Morning in August at the village hall in memory of those we have lost in the village.

I will be most grateful if anyone has any unwanted gifts that you could donate for a raffle or tombola stall. Also a big ask if any Ladies could bake a cake for that morning. More details to follow later.

Jane Lambert, 25 The Street

Bonfires

Parish Councillors have received complaints about smoke from fires. The last thing we want is to involve Environmental Health at Breckland Council, so please if you are having a bonfire please check the weather forecast and only do so when the wind will blow smoke away from the village and avoid times when nearby washing is out. Thanks.

Parish Councillors

Church News

Jean Rockett-Woods

Services:

1 June – 10:30am	Holy Communion	(Revd. Patrick Morrow)
8 June – 10:30am	Pentecost	(TBA)
15 June – 10:30am	Fathers Day	(Jean Rockett-Woods)
22 June – 10:30am	Book of Common Prayer	(Jean Rockett-Woods)
22 June – 10:30am	Benefice Service	
	Merton Church	(Revd. Patrick Morrow)



This month, on Sunday 8th June, we will be celebrating Pentecost.

Pentecost is a Jewish feast that has been celebrated and recorded in the Bible's Old Testament. It is mentioned in five places in the first five books of the Bible. In Palestine, there were two harvests each year. The early harvest

always fell sometime during the middle of the month of May or sometimes in early June; the final harvest came in the Fall.

The Greek name of this event, is also used to refer to the events in Acts 2 when the Holy Spirit intervened following Jesus' ascension to heaven. The account in Act 2 reports that, after Jesus ascended into heaven, Jesus' followers were gathered together for the Feast of Harvest (aka Pentecost), and the Holy Spirit "filled the whole house where they were sitting" (Acts 2:2). "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them" (Acts 2:4).

I hope that this explanation helps explain why we celebrate Pentecost.

We like to celebrate and remember the lives of those who have gone before us during our time of prayer, and also by decorating their graves respectfully with fresh or silk flowers. We ask that you will please remove anything made from glass, china or plastic as these decorations may get damaged during grass mowing.

My daily prayers are for you all. With love in Christ,

Jean. Tel: 07749 870485

Youth Club

Kaz Mason

The Youth Club has extended the ages of those eligible to attend!



Meets last Friday of the month
at the Village Hall

For ages 6–16 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

Out of Village Events

Norfolk Wildlife Trust (Breckland Local Group)

Fiona Roat



We have just had our first walk of the year. This was at New Buckenham Common on a lovely warm Spring morning. We were led by James Symonds, NWT warden at Weeting, who was delighted, as we all were, with the array of Green

Winged orchids on the site. We also saw species of Water Crowfoot flowering, but unfortunately, try as he might James couldn't find the webs of Small Egger Moth caterpillar.

Our next walk is Sunday 29 June at 10:00am at Cavenham Heath Nature reserve, which is accessed from Tuddenham. This is a 2½ mile walk taking in the nature, landscape and World War II relics. It's led by Martin Hull who has done this walk for U3A and BFER groups. Cost is £2 members / £3 non members, cash on the day. Booking is essential:

Fiona: 07788217651 or fionaroat@btinternet.com.

Dereham Walkers are Welcome

Sue Rothwell



Please come and join us for a walk in the Dereham area.

We have two regular walks each month. Our shortest, easiest walk of around two miles is on the second Tuesday of the month and a slightly longer one of around four miles is on the first Friday of the month.

We are trialling a new idea on 14 June; an evening walk, meeting at the new cemetery at 6:30pm, with an option to conclude at *The Coachmakers* on Norwich Road for drinks and/or a meal. If you would like the option please book by 6 June (no need to book if just walking).

Our next longer walk is planned for the end of July when we will catch a train to Thuxton and walk back to Dereham.

For up-to-date information, please check our website:

www.DerehamWaW.org.uk

email Ken Hawkins: ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk

or call him on 07505 426750.

And Finally

Tim



- >> Why do summer solstice parties never end on time?
Because the day just keeps dragging on!
- >> When was the longest Biblical day?
The day Adam was created because there was no Eve.
- >> For years I have been saying that the only holidays worth celebrating are the equinoxes and the solstices.
All of the others to be astronomically unimportant!
- >> How do you organise a solar party?
You planet!
- >> The solstice is the perfect time to reflect ...
It's truly enlightening.

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