

The Ovington Oracle

July, 2025



Over a period of about 100,000 years, gravitational influences, especially from the moon, change the Earth's orbital path from being nearly circular to slightly elliptical.

On 3 July (at 20:54, because you know I like precision) we will be the furthest from the sun, known as

aphelion. The consequence for us in the northern hemisphere is a slightly longer, but slightly cooler summer on average.

The science behind the Earth's orbit was refined and developed from earlier hypothesis by Serbian geophysicist Milutin Milanković in the 1920's. A fascinating subject (maybe not for everyone) they are known as the Milankovitch cycles.

Summer is in full swing,
enjoy!



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Village events this month:

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

Village Hall: ovingtonvillagehall.co.uk

Parish Council (PC)

Laurie Shepherd – Parish Clerk

A report based on the unconfirmed minutes from 5 June 2025

Present: Cllrs David Welsted (DW), Pete Bate (PB), Jeremy Woods (JW)

Apologies received: Cllrs. Karen Weir (KW) and Timothy Birt (TB).

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

KW was elected as Chair and PB as Vice-Chair

The minutes of the Parish Council on 19 March, 2025 were approved.

Matters arising:

The Clerk updated the council on the bank charges and stated that there will be an item on the next agenda to discuss and decide switching banks as the monthly fee is unavoidable.

Policy: The following documents were reviewed and approved:

- Asset Register
- General Risk Management

End of Year Financial Matters:

- Received and noted the internal auditor's report and Financial Summary for 2024/25
- The Certificate of Exemption was considered and approved and the Clerk and Chairman authorised to sign.
- The assertions on the Annual Statement of Governance 2024/25 were considered and the Clerk and Chairman authorised to sign.
- The Annual Accounting Statement 2024/25 was considered approved and the Chairman authorised to sign.
- The process by which electors may exercise their rights of inspection of Annual Return was confirmed. All AGAR documents will be available on the website shortly.

Correspondence:

The councillors received an update from the clerk on the Glebe Land Lease. The lease has been finalised and we are just awaiting the final signed copy.

Planning:

- Planning applications: None
- Time limited planning applications: None
- Planning response by delegated powers:

PL/2025/0423/VAR (Ms M Girling)

Variation of Approved Plans to the Holiday Units to facilitate the blocking up of an existing opening onto the adjacent Barton House and creation of opening in East Elevation into the internal courtyard of Holiday Unit 1. Details & Joinery to match elsewhere as previously approved under 3PL/2017/0020/LB

Decision: Granted with Conditions

DW informed the Council that a stop order has been issued to Otterwood Farms to cease the recent usage as a caravan site. Breckland Council are investigating. The Farm seems to be obeying the stop order.

Accounts and precept update:

<i>Payments Received</i>	<i>Payments to be made</i>
Breckland Council (precept) £2,829.00	A Baker (Internal Audit) £60.00 Insurance £312.03 Ovington Oracle £255.00 Bank Service Charge £4.25 Clerk's expenses £29.08 Ovington Parish Trust £430.00

- Please may the minutes show that this transfer of charity funds should have been done in the financial year 24/25 but was missed due to a clerical error. This has been noted on the AGAR and will be mentioned again in the 25/26 AGAR. There will be another transfer of Charity Funds completed in the latter half of 25/26 as this financial year's transfer.
- To discuss and decide if Ovington Parish Council wish to pursue obtaining two councillor signatories on the bank account, deferred to the next meeting.

Highways or Village Issues:

- Ongoing potholes
- 20 is Plenty campaign. Rather than a door to door survey, DW informed the council that he plans to put a survey in the Ovington Oracle to see if the village would like the Parish Council to campaign to Highways that the speed limit be dropped to 20 mph through the village. DW to present this idea further at the next meeting.
- Community Table update. There has been no interest in anyone to run the community table.

To consider if PC meetings should be every month.

Future Business:

- JW has passed the website activity on to TB
- Authorisers for bank
- Community Table
- 20 is Plenty campaign

Adjournment for public participation:

A member of the public asked if there are any updates on the hedge taken out. The clerk informed them that there haven't, but we will follow up with highways on this issue. The member of the public informed the council that the 30 mph sign had been reposted.

Ovington Parish Council would like to extend our sincere thanks to Mr. Jeremy Woods for his hard work and dedication during his time as a councillor.

Jeremy's commitment and contributions over the years have been greatly appreciated and have made a lasting difference to the community. He will be greatly missed.

Next Meeting:

16 July at 7:30pm in the Village Hall

Future meetings on: 17 September, 19 November.

PC documents at:

ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Village Hall (VH)

Richard Moss (Village Hall Trustee)

Review:

Sunday 1 June First Aid Training – Ethan from St John Ambulance gave an excellent talk and demonstration and had us tied up in bandages for most of the afternoon. We learnt how to deal with types of bleeding and how best to stem the flow with bandages and tourniquets. We will be looking to host another training session later this year.

Thursday 12 June – The Wayland-Players returned for another fabulous evening. A very professional show comprising three one act comedies. The audience, which was few in numbers, certainly made it sound like there was a full house. An extremely funny event.

Forthcoming Special Events:

Ovington celebrates 'Going Country in the Country'

Saturday 12 July from 12:30pm

A fun event with professional line dancing tuition, music, and BBQ.

£10 per person which includes food and entertainment. Fancy dress optional. Please ring Kaz on 07880935765 for tickets.

Regular Events:

- **NEW – Messy Moments**

New to the village hall. A daytime event for under 5's (supervised by an adult) providing messy play. Weekly on a Monday 1:30pm to 2:30pm. For further details contact Tierra via email

messymomentsnorfolk@hotmail.com

- Coffee mornings a weekly event from 10:30am to noon on a Monday. Enjoy a coffee and cake with some friendly conversation for just £1.
- Youth Club usually the last Friday of the month, but a week earlier in July.
- Yoga classes every Tuesday.
- Indoor carpet bowls on Wed 2 July and Wed 30 July, 7 for 7:30pm. Usually alternate Wednesdays but taking a mid-month break.

For all you 'twitchers' out there the robins eventually fledged successfully from the outdoor bin!

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

Allotment Association Produce Show & BBQ

Jill Burgess

Hi everyone,

You are all cordially invited to our annual BBQ and Produce Show which will be held at Ovington Village Hall on Sunday 24 August 2025 from 12:30pm onwards.

We would love you to come and join in the fun and support the Allotment Association at the same time. Tickets will be available at £8 per adult and £4 per child. As usual please feel free to bring a bottle or two to enjoy along with the BBQ.



Please contact Jill on 07840 873928 for your tickets and hope to see you all there.

Rainfall

Tim



The rain arrived late May giving a total rainfall of 38.9mm ($1\frac{17}{32}$ ").

As of 25 June the monthly running total stood at 28.7mm; still in short supply but the threat of desertification has lifted.

Annual Parish Meeting

Editor

Reports from the various groups are published on the Parish Council website in the Agenda's and Minutes section:

ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Written reports were received from:

- Parish Council
- Village Hall
- Fuel Trust
- Church
- Allotment Association
- Youth Club
- Oracle
- District Council

Disappointingly, no report from our County Councillor.

Youth Club

Kaz Mason



Meet on Friday 18 July

(usually 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.

Kaz & Jo (Ovington Youth Club Leaders) – 07880935765

Hymn Requests

Revd Patrick Morrow

“Whoever sings, prays twice.”

That is a phrase that has been attributed to a number of Christian thinkers, including St Augustine and Martin Luther. In truth, more than one person has surely thought it. The point is clear, and is powerful. If you sing to God, you pray with your words, and you pray with the tune. You cannot sing (or at least you cannot sing well) without listening, listening to the sound you are making, and if you are in a choir, or are accompanied, listening to the sound of others. Listening is itself a form of prayer. That’s a conviction that exists throughout and beyond Christianity.

Or it may simply be that most people enjoy music. When we enjoy something, we relax, and we are more readily grateful. And thanksgiving is the most basic form of prayer. People, by and large, feel the power of music. Music can be a way to connect with powerful memories (like the sense of smell). It’s quite normal to be transported back to your youth, just by hearing a few chords. I wonder which chords they are for you?

Throughout her life (and she lived into her 80s), I never saw my aunt look at a hymn book. She knew all the words to all the verses, off by heart. When I asked her how, she just said she’d be singing them since she was four. Those days are gone, I fear (and certainly I need the words in front of me), but hymns too can carry memories, as well as prayers.

Want to try this out? Within our Group of parishes we are offering a special service. There will be a gathering for

Hymns on a Summer’s Evening

on Sunday 27 July at 6:30 pm

St John the Evangelist’s, Ovington.

If you have a favourite hymn, please email me as soon as possible.

Revd Patrick Morrow,

Email: patrickmorrow@live.co.uk

Tel: 01760 330258

Church News

Jean Rockett-Woods

Services:

6 July – 10:30am	Holy Communion	(Revd. Patrick Morrow)
13 July – 10:30am	Morning Praise	(Jean Rockett-Woods)
20 July – 10:30am	Family Service	(Jean Rockett-Woods)
27 July – 6:30pm	Evening Hymns and Praise service	(Revd. Patrick Morrow)



You may have learned that I have recently been in hospital. This was for my second total hip replacement, that went very well, and I am already up and getting about, a little slower than usual.

Gardening has been restricted to indoor plants, whilst Jeremy has taken on watering the Tomato Houses and Pots

in the front garden. He has also been doing a wonderful job of bringing me much needed cups of coffee at regular intervals.

We will continue to have weekly services in our village church, but if I am unable to take any of them, then one of our friends in our Benefice (of Ashill, Saham Toney and Merton) will be able to lead our Sunday morning worship.

I look forward to seeing you all. Do join with us in our Evening Hymns and Praise service on 27 July at 6:30pm.

I also would love to meet with you on a Monday morning at 10:30am in the village hall for a cuppa, cake and friendly chat.

My daily prayers are for you all.

With love in Christ,

Jean. Tel: 07749 870485

Messages

Villagers

For Sale:

Rollator style walker with seat, brakes and small carry compartment. Folds for easy transport/storage. Used about 6 times.

£25

Contact Bruce Smith, 45 The Street.

Out of Village Events

Norfolk Wildlife Trust (Breckland Local Group)

Fiona Roat



At the time of writing we haven't had our June event at Cavenham Heath. But we look forward to seeing all the heath has to offer.

On 6 July we are having a Dragonfly ID morning with county recorder, Pam Taylor at Thompson Water. There are a few places left.

This starts at 10.30am cost is £2 members £3 non members.

A not to miss opportunity is our booked walking tour at Wild Ken Hill, home of Springwatch in 2021 and 2022. Join us on Sunday 3 August at 10:00am for a 2½ to 3 hour guided tour with emphasis on their wildlife.

Cost is £28 per person with a suggested donation of £2 per person to NWT. This is a saving of £7 per person if booking individually.

Places are limited to 15 so get in quick.

For either of these events contact (new email): roatfiona@gmail.com

And Finally

Tim

A quote from Carl Sagan, very much worth repeating, as he described a 'pale blue dot' in an image taken by the Voyager spacecraft as it looked back at earth:

Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us.

On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives.

The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every "superstar," every "supreme leader," every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there – **on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam.**

Submission deadline for next issue: 23 July

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