

The Ovington Oracle

October, 2025



The equinox has been and gone and British Summer Time (BST) ends on Sunday 26 October.

We could all just get up a bit later, but since we all have to do it together there is a scheduled clock change. At 2:00 in the morning our recorded time rewinds back to 1:00 and we repeat that hour again. If you have an auto adjusting clock with hands it is quite weird to see it happen – possibly not weird enough to wait up to see it! This means it will be light(er) in the morning but the sun will set in afternoon.



The term 'fall' is North American for autumn, or is it?

... while 'autumn' is the preferred term in the UK, 'fall' is commonly used in North America. The word 'fall' refers to the falling leaves that characterise the season. Both terms are correct, but 'autumn' has its origins in Latin, while 'fall' emerged in English during the 16th century, so it could be the new word was taken to North America by the settlers.



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Village events this month:

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

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

Messages

Village

Welcome!

We welcome Chris and Isla to Pole Barn, 'North Ovington'.

We hope you will join us in some of the village activities.

Jean Rockett-Woods & Jeremy Woods

Moving to Ashill

Greetings, by the time that you read this message both Jeremy and I will have moved to Ashill. But please note that we are not leaving the village, in fact we will be here most Mondays in the village hall enjoying a cup of coffee and cake. I will still be taking the weekly services at our church, unless our Priest-in-charge, Patrick, needs me elsewhere, in which case someone else will be leading the services. Jean & Jeremy.

David Welsted

Thank You

Many thanks to all those who contributed the various food gifts to our Harvest Festival at the beginning of September. We took the bumper collection down to the Watton Food Bank 2 days after the service where it was gratefully received; the Food Bank volunteers asked us to pass on our thanks to all those who contributed –Big Thank you!!

Parish Council (PC)

Laurie Shepherd – Parish Clerk

This report is based on the unconfirmed minutes of the PC meeting of 17 September.

Matters Arising

DW raised the planning application for the travellers site at Otterwood Farm. The deadline has passed but there is no decision from Breckland as of yet. Clerk to make sure that Ovington Parish Council's response has been logged.

Correspondence:

- Thank you letter from St John's Church, Ovington.
- There was a letter from a resident regarding the drains outside the Church and fly tipping. There is currently a 4 inch pipe that appears to be blocked. Clerk to request Highways come to assess the area.
- District Councillor reports are available on the web-site.

Planning: none

Accounts and Precept update:

Councillors reviewed and agreed payments to be made.

Norwich Diocesan	£625.00
Donation to Ovington PCC	£50.00
Bank Service Charge (July/August)	£8.50
Clerk Backpay	£37.50
Clerk's expenses	£22.48

Update on 20's Plenty Campaign:

DW informed the Council that the campaign has stalled. TB proposed to seek making the road through the village 20mph. Clerk to research how to obtain this.

Telephone Box:

It was agreed that PB, DW and TB will meet and repair the wood on the base and the door. Painting might have to wait until the spring.

Police Operation Radium:

PC to make residents aware, more details on page 9.

Adjournment for public participation:

A resident mentioned that when they had moved into the village the post box in Ovington wasn't able to take A4 letters. They were advised to notify Norwich Post Office who responded in two weeks and replaced the Post Box.

Clerk's annual appraisal and salary review

It is very unusual for the PC to discuss items in private, however there are some legitimate reasons to do so, personnel matters being one. A motion was passed to 'exclude press and public'.

The Clerk's appraisal was completed. In recognition of the training and advancements in competency of the Clerk, Councillors unanimously agreed an increase in salary to spine point 11 in the LC-1 range.

PC documents at:

ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Next Meetings:

12 November, at 7:30pm in Village Hall.

Shipdham Surgery Flu Vaccinations

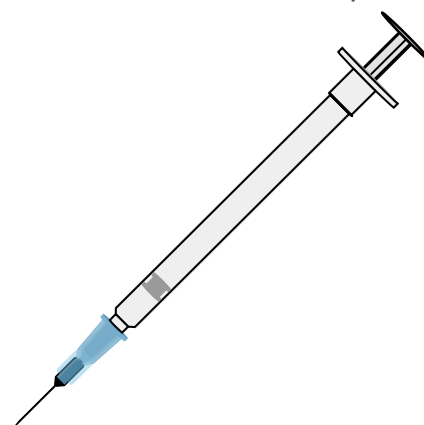
Michelle Lupton

A reminder, for those eligible you can book your winter flu vaccination at Shipdham Surgery:

4 October 2025, 8:00am – 4.00pm

18 October 2025, 8:00am – 4.00pm

1 November 2025, 8:00am – 1.00pm



St John the Evangelist Church

Jean Rockett-Woods

Services:

5 Oct – 10:30am	Holy Communion	(Revd. Patrick Morrow)
12 Oct – 10:30am	Morning Praise	(Jean Rockett-Woods)
19 Oct – 10:30am	Pet Service	(Jean Rockett-Woods)
26 Oct – 10:30am	Book of Common Prayer	(Jean Rockett-Woods)
2 Nov – 10:30am	Holy Communion	(Revd. Patrick Morrow)



This month we remember St Francis of Assisi by holding our annual pet service on Sunday 19 October. Please bring along your pet rabbit, tortoise, hamster cat or dog. All will be welcome. St Francis is associated with patronage of animals and the environment. It became customary for churches to hold ceremonies blessing animals on his

feast day of 4 October, which became World Animal Day. Francis was noted for his devotion to the Eucharist. Along with Catherine of Siena, Francis was designated patron saint of Italy. He is also the namesake of the city of San Francisco. 17 September is the feast of Francis' stigmatization.

We are now planning for the Remembrance day service in November, to which you are all invited.

A big THANK YOU to our church cleaners, flower decorators and providers of refreshments after our services, and also to the gents and ladies who give up their time to mow the grass in our churchyard.

I look forward to seeing you at our next service. My daily prayers are for you all.

With love in Christ,

Jean. Tel: 07749 870485

Village Hall (VH)

Mike (Village Hall Trustee)

Review: Allotment Annual Produce Show (24 August).

As usual this was a well attended occasion, fortunately the weather was perfect. The produce competition was excellent considering the very dry summer. Congratulation to all the winners.

We were also well nourished with a delicious barbecue. A good day was had by all who attended.

Forthcoming Events:

Dan Star – Friday 10 October. Doors open at 7:30pm

By popular demand our regular booking of Dan Star is now upon us. Soft Drinks are available, but bring your own alcohol.

For tickets ring Kaz on 07880935765

Ovington Festive Fayre – Saturday 22 November noon – 3:00pm

Regular Events:

- Coffee mornings: every Monday from 10:30am to noon. Enjoy a coffee and plenty of cake with some friendly conversation.
- Youth Club last Friday of the month.
- Yoga classes every Tuesday.
- Messy Moments, Weekly on a Monday 1:30pm to 2:30pm. (messymomentsnorfolk@hotmail.com)
- Indoor carpet bowls, come and try your skills. Alternate Wednesdays 7:00 for 7:30pm.

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).

The hall is there for the village so please come and support us. If you wish to contact the committee with any ideas etc please email us on ovingtonvillagehall.ovington@gmail.com

Website: ovingtonvillagehall.co.uk

The VH Trustees

NEW at the Village Hall – Baby Massage

Nurturing Moments Baby Massage



Hi, my name is Sarah and I would like to introduce Nurturing Moments Baby Massage, which is coming soon to Ovington Village Hall.

Baby Massage creates a gentle path for you and your baby to connect and grow and is a beautiful way to strengthen the emotional bond between you and your baby. This loving, positive form of communication helps your little one feel safe,

nurtured and deeply connected which supports their journey to grow up happy and healthy.

Do you have a baby between the age of birth and 1 year old? Then this course will be beneficial to you as mums, dads, foster parents, parents who have adopted and teenage parents.

For those parents who have children with additional needs and have children aged up to 7 years, please also get in touch.

The course is a minimum of five weeks consecutively and costs £75 per family. During the course you will learn to relax with your baby and enhance confidence as a parent.

Baby Massage is not just a routine, it's a special time to pause, connect and nurture both your baby's development and your own wellbeing.

If you are interested in finding out more about the course or would like to book, please contact me in the first instance via email:

nurturingmomentsthetford@gmail.com

I look forward to hearing from you.



Operation Radium

Norfolk Police

Operation Radium is Norfolk Police's response to the growing threat of courier fraud – a type of scam where criminals contact victims by phone, pretending to be from trusted organisations such as the police, government agencies, or banks. Victims are manipulated into withdrawing cash, purchasing high-value items, or sharing sensitive financial information, often under the false promise that the money or items will be returned.

These crimes are typically carried out by individuals known as “victim communicators”, who may operate alone or as part of a wider group (sometimes referred to as a “boiler room”). In some cases, a courier is sent to collect the money or items – this courier may be knowingly involved or an unwitting participant.

Courier fraud is happening now, be aware!

Rainfall

Tim



August rainfall was 25.4mm (1” exactly).

As of 25 September the monthly running total stood at 43.5mm. We needed it, but it is half what we had last September!

Youth Club

Kaz Mason



Meets last Friday of the month
(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.

Ovington Youth Club has earned the 'Welcomes Young Carers 2025' badge. Our session dates for the remainder of the year:

31 October – Halloween Fun & Games (fancy dress optional),

28 November – usual session,

19 December – Christmas Special

(earlier than usual – more info to follow).

At these sessions we will be trialling the relaunch of our meal options.

Kaz & Jo (Ovington Youth Club Leaders) – 07880935765

Following Harvest ...

Revd Patrick Morrow

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run

From Keats, *To Autumn*¹

That was one of the first poems I learned by heart. I suspect you know it too. Our fields and villages can feel very much like those Keats had in mind. And in our communities Harvest Festival is important. That sense – from a hymn rather than poem – that “all is safely gathered in” can comfort us, and lead to proper thanksgiving. I say that, knowing full well that Harvest Festivals can never fully coincide with harvests, and that farmers don’t really get to put their feet up thereafter; there are seeds to be planted!

And what of poetry? What harvest can we glean from poems themselves? What, differently, of the notion that the pattern of claims that makes up the Christian faith is itself a form of poetry? I think that’s a strong idea. You might say it lets Christians off the hook. We don’t have to “prove” those claims, like a scientist, or a logician would have to; we ask you to consider them as no more than a beautiful idea. I don’t think that’s quite right. A good poem must be exact. You do have to get all the words right. Even more importantly, you have to leave all the wrong words out. So, if Christian doctrine is poetry, it still has to be examined, to see if the words work, to point to God and life’s meaning, in ways which are coherent and attractive.

Let me leave you with a stanza from another poem of thanksgiving, appropriate for the season, this one by e.e. cummings (and, yes, the punctuation is his).

i thank You God for most this amazing
day:for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky;and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

Revd Patrick Morrow,

Email: patrickmorrow@live.co.uk

Tel: 01760 330258

¹ Editor: Keats poem appeared on front page of The Ovington Oracle, October 2023 – two years ago

And Finally

Tim

Some autumnal 'cracker' jokes:

>> What do you call a small pepper in late autumn?
... A little chilli !

>> What did the ground think when autumn came?
... Well, that's a re-leaf !

>> Why did the scarecrow win a prize?
... He was outstanding in his field !

>> Why did American Humpty Dumpty have a great 'fall'?
... He had to make up for a lousy summer !

And the best joke ever (for a 5-year old):

>> Why do birds fly south in autumn?
... Because it is too far to walk !

Submission deadline for next issue: 23 October

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