Oving District News

Winter 2025

STOP - Don’t throw this out! We Need Your Voice!

Help Shape the Future of Your Community Magazine

As our parish continues to grow, so does our magazine — now reaching three times as many homes as before! But with rising production costs and changing times, we want to make sure we're still serving you in the best way possible.

Would you prefer a printed copy, a digital version, or something else entirely?
Do you find the magazine relevant to your part of the parish?
Is there something you'd love to see more (or less) of?

Please scan the QR code below with your smart phone to provide your vital feedback!

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Editor's note



We need your input please! As our parish continues to grow, so does our magazine — now reaching three times as many properties as before! But with rising production costs and changing times, we want to make sure we're still serving you in the best way possible.

Your feedback will help us decide how we move forward — whether we continue printing every copy, go partially or fully digital, or explore new ways to connect. It could also help support a request for contributions from the parish council if this is required.

Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts. Every response matters, and we truly value your input. Closing date for feedback is 3rd January, 2026. We'll share a summary of the feedback in the new year.

Together, we can make sure the magazine reflects the whole parish — both old and new. Use the QR code on the front cover of this magazine to access the feedback form, or use the contact details below.

As always, we're always extremely grateful for those in the community who work to build connections across the parish. Please do get in touch if you've got news to share.

We're pleased to have some new advertisers in this edition of the magazine. Do look out for their ads and if you get in contact please refer to the magazine as your source.

With best wishes to all, Mandy

Email: ovingdistrictnews@outlook.com

Tel: 07702 785801

View the magazine online and see advertising rates

To view online copies of this magazine, scan the QR code by pointing your smart phone camera at it or go directly to the page on the Oving Community website:

https://www.ovingcommunity.org.uk/community/oving-district-news

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Updated Deadlines for Future Editions

Spring 2026: Fri 13th March

Summer 2026: Fri 10th July

Winter 2026: Fri 6th November



Contributions and Articles

Do you have something you'd like to share with the parish? If you'd like to contribute an occasional or regular article for the magazine, please do get in touch. We are particularly interested in content from the wider district! This is **YOUR** magazine and contributions are most welcome. Drop us an email and we'd be happy to discuss further.

Advertising

Would you like to advertise in Oving District News?
There are three editions a year delivered to around **1450** business and residential addresses in Colworth, Drayton, Merston, Oving, Shopwyke and Woodhorn. Please get in touch to be advised of the current price list with an option to be included in future editions.

Please email: ovingdistrictnews@outlook.com

Distributors needed!

Can you spare up to an hour three times a year to deliver this magazine in your local area? Our team of distributors is always looking for help with the distribution to help reduce the workload and to cover for holidays and other events. We'd particularly like assistance in Shopwyke but also all other areas. If you would like to get involved, please contact Clive and Lynda Sayer, our distribution co-ordinators.

Please email: clive.sayer@gmail.com

With special thanks to all those who continue to support this magazine, whether by providing interesting and informative articles, through advertising, Oving Parish Council who contribute a hefty grant to ensure we can continue to provide printed copies for the whole parish, and also to our fantastic distribution crew! Particular credit should also go to Eileen who does a sterling job of checking the draft content for me. **Thank you all!!**

Oving District News Contacts

Editor: Mandy McPhail - 07702 785801 - ovingdistrictnews@outlook.com

Advertising & Finance: Paul O'Shea - 01243 536679 - paul.oshea@hotmail.co.uk

Distribution Coordinators: Clive and Lynda Sayer - Clive.Sayer@gmail.com

What a wonderful day: lovely visitors, stunning contemporary work by local artists and makers, and tasty refreshments in aid of the Barnham and Eastergate Community Trust.

ABE Artists & Makers Fayre



Thank you to everyone who came to support the ABE Artists and Makers Fayre at Barnham Community Hall Saturday 27th September. We had a wonderful day chatting to you and hope you love your purchases.

If you enjoyed our September fayre, you may want to add a date to your diary: 11 am - 4pm Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December. We will be holding our first ever open studio event around our villages, featuring 20 artists across 6 venues. Definitely something to look forward to.

Find out more: https://www.facebook.com/ABECreativesUK



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Oving Jubilee Hall

Your community venue

Are you 'party planning'?
Do you live in the Parish of Oving
(Shopwyke, Merston, Drayton, Colworth & Oving)?
If so, did you know that you can book Oving Jubilee Hall with a discount of 15%?

The Oving Jubilee Hall belongs to the Oving Parish community = all of us.
Community events are lovingly run by volunteers, which means we can keep prices low to make them affordable. Recent examples are: Shantymen Shindig (music & dancing), Free Summer Fun Day (for children), Quiz Night, Monsters' Party (for children - Halloween) and Christmas Fayre. Every penny raised goes straight back into looking after and improving the Hall – so when you book it, you're giving back to the community.

There are lots of regular groups too:
exercise classes (Pilates & Zumba gold), dog training, indoor bowls, youth club, art class & Spanish lessons, plus a fortnightly food hub and Chill and Chat Cafe.

Each year over 10,000 people set foot inside the Hall and hundreds more visit the Oving Cow Shed milk vending machines.

The Hall has a large ,free car park, can accommodate up to 150 seated guests and also has a more intimate space for business meetings. There is a large stage with changing facilities and a modern sound and lighting system plus audio visual connectivity. The well-equipped kitchen with facilities for food preparation, cooking and refrigeration offers DIY flexibility.

Make Oving Jubilee Hall your first-choice venue. **We, the community, own it, so please use it!** It's affordable, friendly and yours to enjoy!

There's more information in this magazine. For availability & prices, contact our Bookings Secretary, Katie - hall@ovingjubileehall.org.uk or 07962 932560.

Anne-Marie Eastwood, Chair Management Committee OJH



News from the Jubilee Hall

Hello and welcome to news of YOUR Oving Jubilee Hall

As always, there is a lot going on at Oving Jubilee Hall.



In mid-August we held a free Family Funday with 112 attendees enjoying a sunny and entertaining afternoon. It was organised by our two new Trustees, Hannah Edwards and Sarah-Jane Ross . On the menu was a bouncy castle, a magician, a herb potting area, a very popular bracelet making craft table, a petting area and an unscripted Spitfire low fly by!

In early October there was a Quiz night with 70 participants. Neil Linford, the Quizmaster, was at his witty best in leading us through the questions. Scores were better than last year and in a close finish the Hall Pilates Group came out as winners.

Monsters' Night (on the evening after Halloween) was the normal riot of children dancing/running around and covering the floor in toilet paper after the Mummy Competition. The scary stories told by Richard Plowman set the scene for a spooky evening.

On Saturday 6th December we hold our annual Christmas Fayre. There will be a free Santa's Grotto, over 20 gift stalls, seasonal refreshments, a raffle and LIVE music – I do hope many of you will find time to come along. All profits will go to our Church, the Friends of the Church and Oving Jubilee Hall.

Exciting news for dog owners – we are currently finalising arrangements for a dog wash unit to be cited next to the Cowshed. Personally, I can't wait! A white Westie in winter needs a lot of washing. Further details will be circulated shortly.

We are always looking for new ideas to improve the service we offer to the community and are very grateful for the support of our Trustees and employees in doing so.

Are you new to the area? Have you got time for 4 meetings a year and perhaps help organise some of our events? Or perhaps you have some new ideas… Please get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.

Wishing everyone in our Parish a Christmas filled with warmth, joy, and togetherness. Thank you for the love and support you've shown our Jubilee Hall throughout the year – it's what makes our community so special. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.



Anne-Marie Eastwood

Chair, Oving Jubilee Hall Management Committee
annemariedutchy@gmail.com

Community Events coming up at the Oving Jubilee Hall in 2025/2026

December 6th 2025 - Oving Christmas Fayre (11:30 – 14:30)
Organised by The Friends of St Andrew's, The Church and OJH

March 21st 2026 – Race Night
Organised by The Friends of St Andrew's and OJH

There will be more events in 2026, so do watch this space in the next Magazine.



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For **viewings** contact either Nick or Doug on 07875 491031

Regular Weekly Groups

Day	Time	Activity	Contact
Sunday ++	10.00 - Noon	Raventor Re-enactment Group **Winter months only**	Contact Booking Secretary
Monday	9.30 – 12.30	Art Group	Barbara 01243 266193
	13.00 – 17.30	**AVAILABLE TO HIRE**	
	18.00 - 1900	Pilates	Petra petrapilates1@gmail.com
Tuesday	09.00 – 12.00	Food Pantry UK Harvest and Chat &Chill Cafe **Alternate Tuesdays**	Michelle Stone 07872 052158
	13.45 – 16.15	Oving Indoor Bowls	
	16.45 – 22.00	**AVAILABLE TO HIRE**	
Wednesday	08.30 – 9.30	Core and Floor	Book: www.raft.fitness
	10.30 – 11.30	Pilates	Rachel 07973 632412
	14.00 – 16.00	Bognor Bowls	
	18.30 – 21.00	Youth Club	
Thursday	9.30 – 10.30	Zumba Gold	Mel Winstanley 07824 668368
	09.15 – 11.15	Spanish lessons	Contact Booking Secretary
***	14.00 - 1600	Village Tea Parties for parishioners **Once a month**	Sandy Parkinson
	18.30 – 19.30	Zumba Toning	Mel Winstanley 07824 668368
Friday	10.15 – 11.15	Pilates	Rachel 07973 632412
	11.45 – 13.30	**AVAILABLE TO HIRE**	
	14.00 – 17.00	Bognor Bowls	
Saturday	**ALL DAY**	**AVAILABLE TO HIRE**	

++ Raventor meet on Sunday mornings during the winter months only
***The Parish Tea parties take place once a month on a Thursday but we can work any other Thursday bookings round this community event

OVING PARISH COMMUNITY WATCH
Free Lunch and Tea Party Dates
Oving Jubilee Hall

December 18th **CHRISTMAS LUNCH** **1—3pm**



A big thank you to every door that opened on

All Hallow's Eve. Despite a soggy evening, sweets and costumes were enjoyed by many, these pictures were caught at Oving Phone box library, next year we hope to take pictures from all over our district!

Halloween Fun in and around Oving District!











A special mention to the Oving Jubilee Hall Committee and our past community warden Dawn, who hosted a wonderful Halloween party on Saturday 1st November. Pumpkins, Mummies, Spooky Stories, Ghostly cupcakes, amazing costumes, and decorations a plenty.



Article by Ali Marston

Why us?

What makes Pink Spaghetti the right choice for you?

Your local Pink Spaghetti PA:

Nicollette Baldwin



With over 40 years' experience in executive assistance, business support and operational management, I bring a deep understanding of organisational needs and a proactive approach to challenges in fast-paced environments. Before becoming a business owner, I worked across both the private and public sectors, gaining expertise in managing complex calendars, streamlining processes, and overseeing operations.

Known for discretion, adaptability and strong communication, I excel at building relationships, anticipating needs, and implementing solutions that improve efficiency and drive success.

t: 0333 355 6624
e: nicollette.baldwin@pink-spaghetti.co.uk

/PinkSpagChichester
@pinkspagchichester
/nicollette-baldwin-62014727/

w: www.pink-spaghetti.co.uk

A local team with the strength of a national brand

Running a small business can leave you with very little time in the day. At Pink Spaghetti, your local team of virtual assistants makes life easier for small business owners and busy individuals.
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The benefits of a team

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As small business owners and Pink Spaghetti employees, we offer award-winning service from familiar faces, providing a hands-on, flexible approach that truly supports your business. We're your perfect fit for a real return on investment.

Want to know more? Get in touch to arrange a time to chat

Parish Council News



Dear community,

As we head into winter and another year draws to a close, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what's been happening across our parish, and to share a few updates from the council.

Since the last edition, planning permission has been sought and granted for the new Southern Co-op store in Shopwyke. This will bring a much-needed local convenience for residents and help strengthen the growing sense of community in the area. It's great to see more facilities coming forward that make daily life that bit easier for everyone.

Teddy Wilf's Nursery has now opened at the Shopwyke Club House and I'm delighted to hear that 23 children are already enrolled, 20 of them from the Shopwyke area. That's fantastic progress, and it's brilliant to know that families across the parish now have nursery provision right on their doorstep. No more long drives (and battling morning traffic on the A27!) to find a place further afield.

We've also recently purchased a defibrillator for Shopwyke Lakes, which will soon be installed on the side of the Clubhouse. This joins the one we have previously installed at the Oving Jubilee Hall. It's something we hope will never need to be used, but having it there provides peace of mind and could one day make all the difference.

Over in Oving village, the community garden is being carefully prepared for the colder months, with overwinter crops being planted to ensure it stays productive all year round. A big thank you to the volunteers who give their time and energy to keep the garden thriving. it's a real asset to the whole parish!

On council matters, our long-serving Parish Clerk, Ruth, has made the difficult decision to step down after an incredible nine years of dedicated service to Oving Parish Council. Ruth has been at the very heart of the Council's work, guiding us through projects, policies, and procedures with professionalism, patience, and a deep commitment to the community.

Over the years, she has been a constant source of support, not only to councillors

past and present but to residents too, often going above and beyond, behind the scenes, to ensure things ran smoothly. Through both the good times and the more challenging moments, Ruth's calm approach and wealth of knowledge have been invaluable.

Ruth truly has been a pillar of our parish, and I know many of you, whether through your dealings with the Council or perhaps her well-known dog training sessions, will join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude for everything she has done. On behalf of the Council, I would like to wish Ruth every happiness and success in whatever comes next for her.

Looking ahead, we will be beginning the process of recruiting a new permanent Parish Clerk in the new year. In the meantime, I'm pleased to share that we have appointed an experienced locum clerk to ensure the smooth running of Council business and to guide us confidently into the next financial year.

Finally, thank you to everyone who continues to make this parish such a welcoming and vibrant community - whether by volunteering, attending events, or simply helping a neighbour.

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Warm regards,

Robert Stoner
Chair, Oving Parish Council

Email:
cllr.stoner@ovingcommunity.org.uk
Mobile:
07424 172747



From Simon Oakley

Our WSCC Councillor



The process towards a new Sussex wide Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) and Local Government Re-organisation (LGR) continues. All three Sussex upper tier Authorities have agreed to the "Making" of the Government Order to set up the MCCA and it's now over to Government to make it so. A useful summary of what the MCCA will be empowered to do can be found in WSCC's 22 Oct Cabinet Papers[1].

With regards LGR, Government is expected to undertake the Statutory Public Consultation on its Unitarisation proposals for Sussex from late November, in response to the various proposals put forward by the existing Councils across Sussex. Hopefully the increasing scale, complexity and resourcing needs of Adults and Children's Social Services will form a significant consideration in which Option is decided on, particularly the implications for splitting existing services if two Unitaries for W. Sussex are created.

To many residents roads, transport and increasing development are main concerns because they relate to their everyday experiences. However WSCC spends about 2/3 of its income from Council Tax on, the not so visible, Adults and Children's services. The balance between providing for everyday expectations and caring for the most vulnerable is challenging for democracies.

An example of public expectation can be found in concerns over flooding. WSCC has recently adopted a new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy[2] and publishes info on managing flood risk[3]. For Oving Parish, the Strategy's focus on catchment management is important given it faces the multiple challenges of what effect development to its North is and will have on water coming downhill, ensuring landowners maintain watercourses so flows don't backup within it and the resulting diversionary traffic movements when those flows close main roads around Bognor.

Links to info on the Household Support Fund[4] and Community Hub[5] can be found over the page.

Simon Oakley 7th November 2025

Links for Simon's article opposite

1) Agenda for Cabinet on Wednesday, 22 October 2025, 10.30 am

https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=3973&Ver=4

2) Local Flood Risk Management Strategy - West Sussex County Council

https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire-emergencies-and-crime/dealing-with-extreme-weather/flooding/flood-risk-management/local-flood-risk-management-strategy/

3) Managing flood risk - West Sussex County Council

https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire-emergencies-and-crime/dealing-with-extreme-weather/flooding/flood-risk-management/managing-flood-risk/

4) Household Support Fund - West Sussex County Council

https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-community/household-support-fund/

5) Community Hub - West Sussex County Council

https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-community/community-hub/

Editor's note: If you have problems accessing the links above please view the online version of the magazine when uploaded here: https://www.ovingcommunity.org.uk/community/oving-district-news

Useful Community Resources

The Oving Community website: https://www.ovingcommunity.org.uk/
The website includes a link to sign up to occasional **Oving Parish News Alerts** emails and access to view online versions of this magazine.

Oving Community Group (West Sussex) - Private Facebook Group for Oving
****UPDATED: Shopwyke Community Group** - Private Facebook Group for Shopwyke residents
Oving Community - West Sussex - Public Facebook page for Oving Parish
Oving Jubilee Hall - Public Facebook page for Oving Jubilee Hall
Oving Community Garden - Public Facebook page for Oving Community Garden
St Andrew's, Oving - Public Facebook page for St Andrew's Church
Oving Scarecrows - Public Facebook page for Oving Scarecrows
Oving News Group - WhatsApp - contact annemariedutchy@gmail.com or 07810 128245

What's missing? Please get in touch to have a resource added!

Shopwyke's Stone Man by Cait Ford



'The Art of Chichester' by David Elliott is a brilliant recent book recording the district's many notable local artists, public art and architecture. However I couldn't help but notice that one artwork is missing - our mysterious stone man at Glenmore Business Park! So with a bit of digging here's some information on him.

The artwork was commissioned by the site owners after the Business Park was proposed to the council. Providing a piece of public artwork had been part of its planning conditions. It was installed in early 2017. The artist's name is John Williams, a figurative sculptor based in North London and the Dordogne in France. The stone man isn't meant to portray a real person, but is rather an abstract metaphor for stone being taken out of the ground in the times of Portfield Quarry and it's metamorphosis into something different. It's made from acrylic resin and coated in stone powder.

The sculpture is impressive but currently it's not quite as imagined - the concrete block he's cast into is intended to be completely covered by earth so it would seem like he is pushing himself out of the ground (as shown in the plan below). The original loose earth has been washed away over time. In the absence of this it's fair to say he looks a bit like a mime artist - more Marcel Marceau than metamorphosis! Perhaps this can be put right in the future. More information about the artist can be found at www.johnwilliamssculpture.co.uk

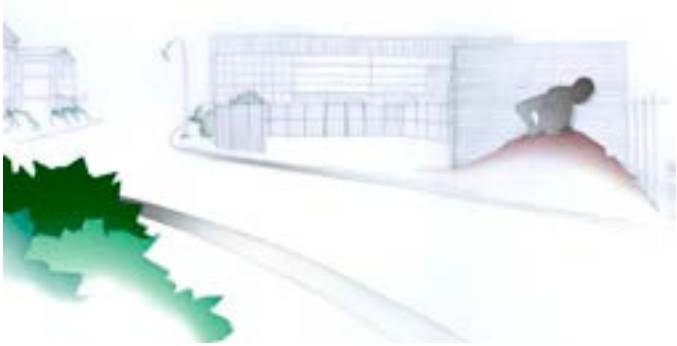


Image credit: John Williams https://substack.com/@caitfordlocalhistory

Local optician brings community together with new Chaai cafe in Shopwyke

A new chapter of community spirit is unfolding in Shopwyke as local resident and optician, Tanzie Pope, has opened a café designed to bring neighbours together. Living in the area with her husband and three children, Tanzie envisioned an affordable, welcoming space where residents could connect and relax and enjoy a reasonably priced coffee.

"I wanted to create somewhere that feels accessible for everyone," Tanzie explained. "A place where parents can chat after the school run, where older residents can enjoy a morning coffee, and where children feel welcome".



Tanzie is involved in local community projects and understands how important such spaces are for wellbeing. 'It has been a daunting but rewarding task so far. We have had a slow start, but the support from the community has been encouraging, and I hope it grows into something wonderful for us all' she says. Her goal is to create a warm, inclusive environment that reflects the friendly spirit of the neighbourhood.

The café currently features homemade treats, coffee from local independent coffee roastery Host, various toasties, sausage rolls and samosas. Future plans include hosting community events, book clubs, craft mornings and hopefully a curry night, to encourage social interaction and support local initiatives.

Residents have already expressed excitement about the project, praising Tanzie's commitment to enhancing community life in Shopwyke. Many see the café as a much-needed addition to the area, offering a convenient and friendly destination within walking distance.



With final preparations to open full time under-way, the café is currently open Thursday-Saturday 10-5, marking a new gathering place for the people of Shopwyke — and a testament to one resident's vision of bringing her community closer together.

The café is located within the Chichester Bike Project, a CCDT initiative, running workshops, repairing and rehoming bicycles within the com-munity, in Longacres House, Longacres Way in Shopwyke.

[Ed: Can't wait to pop in Tanzie!]



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THE WOODHORN GROUP

Oving Community Garden Group

Welcome to our OCG news!

Ali Marston and the Oving Community Garden Group

As autumn settles in and the days grow shorter, there's still plenty happening in our vibrant community garden! We're delighted to continue to share updates, upcoming events and tips to keep our green space thriving. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just getting started, there's something for everyone at Oving Community Garden.

Garden Highlights



- Autumn Harvest Success: This season, we have enjoyed another bumper crop of red and white onions, garlic, courgette-marrows, pumpkins and beans.
- As ever these have been available to all our community on the bench on the other side of the hedge so, please do check in and help yourself.



- We continue to weed the beds, cut the grass and try to keep things neat and tidy and have been lucky with dry and sunny weather this Autumn.
- We have planted again and already we are seeing the small green shoots of turnips peeping through the soil.



- Our meeting on the 1st November saw the installation of 3 large tanks to hold water for our garden as we are not connected to the mains. We aim to collect water from the shed roof and hope that by next summer all 3 tanks will be full.

Volunteer Shout-Out

A massive thank you to all our volunteers who continue to help with the garden. Your efforts help keep the garden welcoming and productive for everyone. Remember we can be found at the garden in the morning of the first Saturday of every month (except this December as it's the Oving Christmas Fair!)

Happy gardening and see you at the garden!







Gardener's Tip of the Season

Now's the perfect time to clear away finished crops and mulch your beds with leaves or compost. This will nourish the soil and protect it from winter weather. Don't forget to clean and store your tools to keep them in good nick for next year!

Ali Marston and the Oving Community Garden Group



Festive milkshakes, fresh organic milk, coffee and more...

...available just outside Chichester

You can now enjoy fresh, organic milk straight from our farm at The Oving Cow Shed, at Oving Jubilee Hall, near Chichester.

Drop by to enjoy our delicious, creamy milk along with a range of milkshakes, fresh coffee and hot chocolate from our easy-to-use vending machines.

- *Local organic whole milk & milkshakes - 500ml or 1L options*
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Open all day every day!
(subject to milk supply)

We also stock farm produce and treats in our chilled vending machine including butter, cheeses, eggs, brownies and our own fudge.

Woodhorn Farm has been in our family since 1882 and is home to our 250 strong dairy herd who graze on our lush pastures to produce rich, flavourful and wholesome milk. All milk is pasteurised within a few hours before being delivered to The Oving Cow Shed, less than a mile from the farm. To preserve the flavour and natural creaminess we don't homogenise our milk.

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Oving Jubilee Hall, High Street, Oving, West Sussex, PO20 2DQ

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Woodhorn Farm

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Down on the Farm

It's too wet now!





Our measurements say we are 200 mm (8 inches) short of our annual average rainfall at Woodhorn, which means there's plenty more to come!

September/October is the optimum time for sowing wheat and oats but the ever warmer autumns and the lack of frosts are great news for an aphid that can infect crops with 'barley yellow dwarf virus' (BYDV). Conventional farmers are spraying their crops every couple of weeks with an insecticide to keep the aphids under control but this is, of course, not something we are able to do Organically (nor would we want to!). We have to wait until temperatures fall so that aphid numbers reduce naturally, which is about now (writing early November). Consequently we had to ignore the perfect sowing conditions in September and October and now it's too wet to get on the ground. Patience is now the name of the game and the worst thing is to try and 'muddy' seeds into the ground when conditions aren't right. Another challenge of farming Organically but nothing we are not used to!

The herd at Reeds Farm are now happily settled indoors in the dry and calving has all but finished. Despite the drought, we are incredibly relieved to have adequate stocks of winter feed. There are many dairy farms across the country who are not so fortunate and are in serious trouble as a result. One revelation for us has been our crop of Lucerne which we have grown for silage (winter feed) for the first time. This was the big field on Madame Green farm on the RHS as you approach the T junction at Drayton from Oving that stayed green all summer when the rest of the world turned brown!

Lucerne is very deep rooting and so can find moisture when grass and clover can't but to be honest, we have been stunned as to how productive this crop has been. It does not like getting wet feet so may not do so well in other years but then the grasses and clovers should compensate. The resulting lucerne silage is high in protein but low in energy but this balances well with our maize silage that is always low in protein but high in energy.

Down on the Farm (continued)

This is the busiest time for the team at Reeds farm with the cows all housed and at peak milk production. The arable team are now focused on cleaning ditches and winter machinery maintenance. The endless task of hedge trimming is nearly at an end. We are compelled to cut hedges alongside roads annually on safety grounds but otherwise we trim them every other year (half the farm per year). This creates the perfect balance between maximising the hedge's role as a habitat and source of food for birds, whilst not letting the hedge get out of control which then requires the hedge to be cut back so hard that the health of the hedge itself is threatened.

The autumn brings to an end to our season of free farm visits involving many of the farm team but my thanks particularly go to Karen Sturman and Sam Hoare. We mainly host 10 to 11 year old children from our local schools with activities tying in with the relevant key stage. This year we also hosted agricultural students from Plumpton College in East Sussex and young people via the charity 'Releasing Potential' which uses outdoor activities to help young people with social, emotional, and mental health needs (SEMH) to build confidence, skills, and a positive outlook through therapeutic learning in nature.



The March School at Woodhorn May 25

Our visits typically have two parts: The first is connecting to the nature side of what we do through our 'hedgerow safaris' and discussions about the importance of working in balance with Mother Nature – the role of pollinators, for example, as we show them our beehives.

The second part is a visit to the dairy to see the cows being milked and cared for and ends with a visit to the Oving Cow Shed for a milk shake. Thus our guests see the whole process of how milk is produced from start to finish. As a result, we hope that if asked 'where does milk come from?' they don't answer "Tesco"!

JP 10.11.25

Traffic Calming For Oving Village

Dear Residents,

Earlier this year I applied for a Traffic Regulation Order, "TRO," to reduce the speed limit entering the village from the west and east. Also, a reduction from 30 mph to 20mph though the High Street. This was just recently rejected, as being too costly under a TRO application. I had a meeting with West Sussex Highways to discuss this, and they suggested I re-apply under a Community Highways Scheme, "CHS," for the above, also adding the whole of Oving to be 20mph to follow on from the High Street. This was on my target to apply for once I succeeded with my last TRO, application. This will bring in Gribble, Marlpit, Church and Woodhorn Lanes all down to 20mph, making them all safer for walkers, cyclists, horse riders, etc. These lanes are used much more now as the population grows around the area, including the route to catch the 500 bus to and from Chichester.

Last year I did a consultation for all this but now I am applying for a CHS I am asking for your support again to secure success.

I will also be applying for TROs for Colworth, Woodhorn South and Marsh Lane, Merston in the near future.

Please email your comments to me by 12th January 2026:

Cllr.A.Smith@ovingcommunity.org.uk

Have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year

Cllr Alan Smith **5th November 2025**
Oving Parish Council

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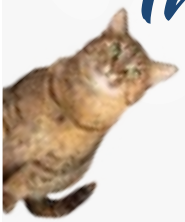
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What the Neighbourhood Plan can do for Oving Parish

Houses, jobs, open spaces, walking & cycling

Houses that fit with the parish

- Respect heritage, landscape, key views
- Blend with the local character
- Embody the local vernacular
- Affordable housing for local residents

Productive employment

- Development that enhances and regenerates existing sites
- Provides modern commercial premises and flexible work space
- Encourages higher employment density
- Helps create higher wage local economy

Open Spaces

- Special to the local community
- Green Belt status: developed with care
- With the approval of the landowner
- Recreation ground, Old Oving Road, Chichester and Arundel Canal

Landscape Gaps

- Prevent coalescence of settlements
- Protect individual identities of settlements
- Tangmere and Oving, Shopwyke and Tangmere, Shopwyke and Oving
- Developments to prevent visual coalescence

Walking and Cycling

- At present no cycle routes or pedestrian paths
- Plan will support investment in shared transport and active routes
- Improved connectivity one of the priorities of the plan

Consulting the community

- Vision and objectives April 2021
- Testing the waters October 2022
- Pre-Submission October 2024/ January 2025
- Target for making the plan March 2026

The plan goes to the Parish Council for approval on November 20. The stages that follow are a six week consultation of residents by the District Council, review by an independent Examiner and finally, if all goes well, a referendum of the parish.

Stephen Quigley, Chair, Oving Neighbourhood Plan Committee

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Community Warden - Jimmy Upton



Hi Everyone,

I have now been your Warden for just over a year. It is amazing how quickly the time goes by and now we are heading towards Winter. During this time, it is important to keep yourself warm and safe. I attended a "Preparing for Winter" seminar at Sage House Tangmere where the West Sussex Fire Service were present. You may be eligible for their Prevention Team to come out for free to check your smoke alarms and offer advice. Check out: www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire-emergencies-and-crime/west-sussex-fire-and-rescue-service/

As your Community Warden I engage with the local communities in Oving and Tangmere parishes. Part of that role involves helping at the Oving Youth Club which runs every Wednesday evening 6.30pm to 8.30 pm during term time. I also meet regularly with the Sussex Police and other partner agencies. I recently went to the Chichester District Food Bank which is now based in Quarry Lane Chichester and I can now issue Food Vouchers for those in need. Each voucher is valid for two months and provides food and toiletries for 3 days.

I am not an emergency service so I may not be able respond to you straight away, but I will make every effort to contact you.

I am not on FACEBOOK or WHATSAPP but you can contact me by either email or mobile telephone on:

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BOOK CLUB REPORT



"**Small Things Like These**" by Claire Keegan is set in a small town in Ireland some years ago. Bill Furlong is the coal and timber merchant, leads an ordinary life with his wife and five daughters. But his beginning was exceptional. His mother was disowned by her family when, unmarried, she fell pregnant, but her Protestant employer, Mrs Wilson, kept her working for her and even helped bring up the boy. Bill is beginning to question what life is all about. In a pre-Christmas delivery to the local convent he finds a girl in the coal house, takes her indoors, where the Mother Superior acts strangely. In the town he is told to forget about it, not ask questions. But he cannot rest and on Christmas Eve he returns, finds the girl there again, and takes her away. The story ends at the threshold of his house. He knows there will be trouble, but he has done the right thing. Where better to show love and compassion than on Christmas Eve?

"**The Dictionary of Lost Words**" by Pip Williams is another novel based on fact but with some fictional characters to tell the story. In 1887 a group of Oxford scholars meet to compile a new Dictionary. The fictional part begins when one of the scholars has to bring his little daughter with him to the scriptorium because her mother had died. Esme sits quietly under the table for several years, collecting any slips with words on them that have fallen or been disregarded. She keeps them all in a box in her bedroom. Too old to stay under the table any longer she begins to work with the group. One day she goes to market with her maid, Lizzie, meets an old woman who teaches Esme words that a nice young woman should not know! But Esme is fascinated and collects more examples of such vernacular, and all go into the box. Esme's life is linked to the history of her time; the Women's Suffrage movement, the 1st World War. Esme falls in love with Gareth who works at the University Press, marries him at the outbreak of the war. He presents her with a lovely book containing all her words which he calls "Women's Words and their Meaning". He enlists and is killed in the ensuing battles, but Esme will always have his book. The Dictionary takes years to publish. Esme dies in 1928, the last year of the work.

We all enjoyed this book; it perfectly blended fact and fiction. Real or imagined characters ring true.

As a Book Club we tend to gravitate to words and books. But "**The Lost Bookshop**" by Evie Woods proved a confusing tale. It was difficult to sort out the characters, and the author seems unsure of the theme. Is the bookshop meant to exist? Are the people on a quest to discover it? Is it a ghost story? Martha and Opaline live years apart. The former once worked in the shop, the latter rents a room in a house supposedly next

door. Into the narrative comes the enigmatic Madame Bowen who owns the house and can control lives. There are some good passages; Opaline's incarceration in a lunatic asylum is vividly described. Branches and plants inexplicably grow though into Martha's room, we did not really know why. We quite like fantasy but there must be a link to reality to make it work.

A different novel is "**The Women**" by Kristin Hannah. During the war between America and Vietnam, Frankie volunteers as an army nurse. Many of us will have watched the television episodes of M.A.S.H where the emphasis was on comedy, a sanitised version of war. Of course, the reality is far different. Frankie has to contend with dreadfully injured and dying men, often going without sleep or meals. She makes friends with other nurses and falls in love with a doctor. We were all moved, some to tears, by this harrowing section, but in a way worse was to come. When her time is up, Frankie returns home, where Americans have turned against the war, and treat the veterans coldly, even to denying that women ever went to Vietnam. Frankie has a nervous breakdown, but her old nurse friends stay to support her, and they work for a memorial, which they eventually achieve for U.S. veterans, men and women. This is not an easy book to read, but we were all glad we did. It shows that the results of war have real and lasting effects.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

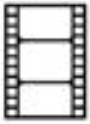
By popular request we are now going to include any "Family Announcements" that Oving Parishioners would like others to know about, in particular notice of deaths. So in future if you would like such announcements to be made, please let me or the editor, Mandy, know. **Di Pitts (Tel: 07833 364873)**



FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Leah Keates. 20 June 1933 – 29 September 2025. A Celebration and Thanksgiving for her life was held at Chichester Crematorium on Friday 17 October 2025. Mary lived locally all her life and was greatly loved and respected by all who knew her.

ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER
Directed by Paul Thomas Anderson



FILM REVIEW by ANNIE BENNETT

Loosely based on the Thomas Pynchon novel, Vineland, this film's timeline is purposely fluid. It could be set in the 80's, 90's or noughties.

The opening scene takes us to the US/Mexican border, where a far-left radical group calling themselves the French 75 (?), are mounting an attack on the US border patrol soldiers' base, to release the detainees and take the soldiers hostage.

The revolutionary group is led by the charismatic Perfidia Beverley Hills (Teyana Taylor) who is in a relationship with Leonardo Di Caprio's character Bob Ferguson.

The attack takes the base by surprise and the Colonel in charge, Steven J. Lockjaw (Sean Penn) is humiliated in more ways than one! Suffice to say he becomes fixated with Perfidia herself and is on a mission to take out the group. The group continue to carry out attacks on Politician's offices, banks and the power grid.

When one such attack goes awry, Lockjaw catches Perfidia planting a bomb. He lets her go after she agrees to have sex with him in a motel. Perfidia is black and Lockjaw is an out and out white supremacist. Do as I say not as I do!

Perfidia becomes pregnant and Bob is overjoyed and rather keen to dial down the revolution. However, Perfidia is not able to settle down to domesticity and abandons Bob and their child Willa (Chase Infiniti) to continue her nefarious activities.

She is once again captured during a failed bank robbery; Lockjaw arranges for her to avoid prison and go into witness protection if she gives up the French 75. She does. He pursues them mercilessly, shooting rather than detaining most of them. Bob and Willa escape. Perfidia absconds from WP and disappears into Mexico.

16 years later, living off grid in the back of beyond, Bob has become a paranoid stoner. Willa on the other hand has grown into a feisty, independent spirited teenager, fighting for the underdog.

Lockjaw has become renowned for his anti-immigration activities, and is approached by The Christmas Adventurer's Club, a cabal of white supremacist rich men, to join. Obviously, he must fulfil the entry criteria one of which is to confirm he has never had relations with a black woman. He lies. He now worries that his past may catch up with him and that maybe Willa is his child. He hires a bounty hunter to find any remaining France 75 members, which triggers a pre-determined distress call to the group to disperse.

FILM REVIEW by ANNIE BENNETT (continued)

Willa is at her school dance but is spirited away before the troops arrive. Bob escapes from his home via a pre-dug tunnel. He calls the network for help, but his addled brain can't recall the password protocol. He seeks out Willa's sensei teacher Sérgio St Carlos (Benicio del Toro) who has a side line in smuggling Mexicans into the US. There proceeds one of the funniest, cleverest escape sequence across rooftops ever filmed. Sadly, poor old Bob gets arrested.

Meanwhile Lockjaw has tracked down Willa, DNA tested her and finds out she is his daughter. She must be eliminated. He uses the bounty hunter to dispose of her. Meanwhile, Bob has managed to escape custody and is on the hunt for Lockjaw and Willa. More twists and turns lead to one of the most extraordinary car chases between Willa, Lockjaw and Bob.

Phew! I won't divulge the last few scenes as that would ruin the film for you.
This film, at 3 hours long, rattles along at such a pace, you don't notice.
It is by turns, exciting, clever, thought provoking, and oh so funny. Really laugh out loud humour. The inanity of a revolutionary group being hung up on procedure re passwords speaks volumes.

Di Caprio has never been so good, Totally Oscar material. An excellent cast, superb cinematography, marvellous script, and as for Sean Penn, never has an uptight, misogynistic, racist US serviceman been better portrayed on film.

Note from Annie and Stephen Bennett: As per usual we will not be sending Christmas cards in the village but making a donation to a favoured charity.

ADVERTISE YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS SO LOCALS KNOW YOU ARE HERE!!

I recently discovered that there are local businesses, including B&Bs, who are only advertising on-line and many locals do not know they exist! This is a missed opportunity for all so I should like to encourage everyone to put a little advert in the Oving News if they can. I know that local adverts usually get good responses and it is a nice local service too.

Di Pitts.



THE FRIENDS OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, OVING

The Friends are again pleased to continue with fund-raising efforts to support the Church to enable it to be a welcoming peaceful place for visits, reflection and worship.

We cover the ongoing costs of grass cutting of the Churchyard to keep it tidy and pay for cleaning of the Church, as and when requested. Earlier this year we provided financial support towards the replacement of Church guttering and fitting of an energy efficient LED floodlight.

The annual Quiz took place on Saturday 11th October. The usual fish and chips supper was enjoyed by over 60 people and some £800 was raised.

We will again be running a stall at the Christmas Fayre on Sat 6th December.

We continue to run our 3 monthly Lottery. Winners this time were Mrs O'Sullivan who won the 1st prize of £100 and the 2nd prize of £50 was won by Stephanie Emery.

The next event for your calendar is the Race Nite on Saturday 21st March which is a joint event with the Jubilee Hall team and will be another fun evening.

Thank you for your continuing support – may I wish you a joyful and peaceful Christmas and a happy 2026.

Lynda Sayer (Chairman, Friends of St. Andrew's Church Oving)

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A Note from the Rectory

From the Churchwardens



Our beautiful 800 year old Church is open every day from 9am until 4pm as a cool haven of peace and quiet for anyone to come and spend a few moments reflecting on our busy lives.

We are still waiting for a resident vicar but our wonderful and resilient Church is continuing to thrive. We have several retired clergy who live locally and they are very happy to come and take our Sunday service each week at 11am. Our Church is also very popular for weddings and baptisms.

Thanks to the magnificent efforts of Zahra and her team in the battle against food waste, the Church continues to be the distribution point for excess food collected from various supermarkets in the area.

The ongoing maintenance of the building and the grounds is ensured by our enthusiastic team of highly skilled DIY members of the village and the grass continues to be mown by Leigh Holloway. The "Friends of the Church" play a huge part in organizing fundraising events to finance all aspects of repair and maintenance. Replacement of some sections of guttering is the current project.

Some dates for your diary:
Saturday 6th December 11.30am – 2.30pm Christmas Fayre: Oving Jubilee Hall
Saturday 20th December 5pm Carol Concert: St Andrew's Church.
Thursday 25th December, Christmas Day Service 10am: St Andrew's Church

So, even though we presently have no vicar, our Church continues to be the beating heart of our wonderful village; available and open to all.

Please do come and visit and see for yourselves.
https://www.ovingchurch.org.uk/

Tony Barnard and Ralph Godfrey
Churchwardens
Email: godfrey.ralph@orange.fr
Email: tonybarnard@hotmail.co.uk

St Wilfrid's Christmas Tree Recycling

From doorstep to hospice care: trees collected, lives supported.

St Wilfrid's Hospice
Making a difference to local lives

With the festive season around the corner, St Wilfrid's Hospice want to remind you about their TreeCycle service!

Between January 9th – 12th 2026, St Wilfrid's tree-mendous team of volunteers will be collecting real Christmas trees across the local area – to be recycled into mulch and wood chippings to support local farmlands.

This is a great way to avoid the hassle and mess of transporting the tree yourself, instead you can sit back and let us do the heavy lifting. If you can, we suggest a donation* of £15 to support St Wilfrid's in providing expert palliative care and compassion to people with a life-limiting illness in your local community.

Book your collection now: www.stwh.co.uk/tree-cycle

**We will still collect your tree even if you're unable to donate.*

INSIDE THE WILDLIFE HOSPITAL THIS WINTER

This time of year we see a variety of animals admitted who are struggling for various reasons in these cold and wet conditions, including malnourished hedgehogs and hypothermic babies. Our team are working around the clock to give specialist care to each animal at Brent Lodge and we are preparing for many more admissions as the winter months continue. We are open 365 days a year and our emergency phone line is open all throughout the Christmas period should you find any wildlife casualties in need of help. We are so grateful for all of your support during these very busy times and wish you all the merriest of Christmases, the happiest of holidays, and a wonderful new year ahead!

HELPING BRENT LODGE WILDLIFE HOSPITAL

Please visit our social media channels and website www.brentlodge.org for our latest news, updates and Wish Lists of items we are always in desperate need of. At this time of year, we particularly need wet cat/kitten and dog/puppy food, kitchen roll, blue roll and puppy pads and would be very grateful for any possible donations dropped off or sent to our main hospital site in Sidlesham. A big thank you from the team and animals in our care for your support, and our warmest wishes to you all this holiday season.

For more information and tips, please visit our website or contact us on the details below.

Web: www.brentlodge.org **Tel:** 01243 641672 **Email:** enquiries@brentlodge.org

Address: Brent Lodge Wildlife Hospital, Cow Lane, Sidlesham, PO20 7LN.

Phoenix Art Group



We were tasked this session to paint only using shades of green. We used a still life that was mostly green as our guide. There are about 300 shades of green and apparently our eyes are designed to see green more than any other colour. We found that by combining yellow and blue with other colours to create different hues, saturations, and values.















There are three sessions a year of about 12 weeks each. It really doesn't matter if you have never tried art before. There is always someone willing to help and guide. We start each session with a theme and go from there. We either follow the theme or do our own thing and we laugh a lot. We start at 9.30am and finish at 12.30pm. Our spring session will start mid-January and finish late April. If you are curious to see what we do please come one Monday and join us for a cup of coffee.

Barbara Cotton is our organizer, and her number is **01243 266193.**

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Nick and Doug - 07875 491031

Oving District News

Are we missing any important local contacts from this page?

If so please sent details to the Editor.

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