Oving District News

Spring 2026



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Distributed to 1450 homes and businesses in Colworth, Drayton, Merston, Oving, Shopwyke and Woodhorn

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Editor's note



Dear all,

Finally we seem to be moving out of what seemed to be a very long, very wet and grey winter. The sun is finally showing its face, the gardens are bursting with life, and the Woodhorn cows are out on their pasture - check out the video of the latter on their Facebook page!

A bumper edition this time with an extra sheet required to include as many articles as we could. Great news to hear that **Scarecrow day is on 9th May** this year - always a fabulous day. We're so lucky to have the amazing team putting so much time into the organisation of the event. Thank you too, to all the volunteers who help out on the day.

We're pleased to have some new advertisers in this edition of the magazine. If you contact them, please do mention the magazine as your source.

Note: Paul O'Shea has stepped down as Finance and Advertising officer but will continue to assist Clive with distribution. His assistance has been so helpful over the years since I joined the (very small) team. **Thanks Paul!**
In future all finance should now go to the main email address below.

A special **Thank You to the team at Waterhaven Place** who are helping with getting the Shopwyke copies of the magazine to the local team of distributors! Thanks too to Nicollette at Pink Spaghetti for helping out with proofreading this edition. Essential as it's extremely difficult to check your own work!

As always, we're always extremely grateful for those in the community who work to build connections across the parish.

With best wishes to all, Mandy

Email: ovingdistrictnews@outlook.com Tel: 07702 785801

View the magazine online and see advertising rates

Scan the QR code by pointing your smart phone camera at it or g[illegible] the page on the Oving Community website:
https://www.ovingcommunity.org.uk/community/oving-district-news

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Oving District News - Survey Results

Thank you to the 27 residents who shared their views on Oving District News.

Highlights:

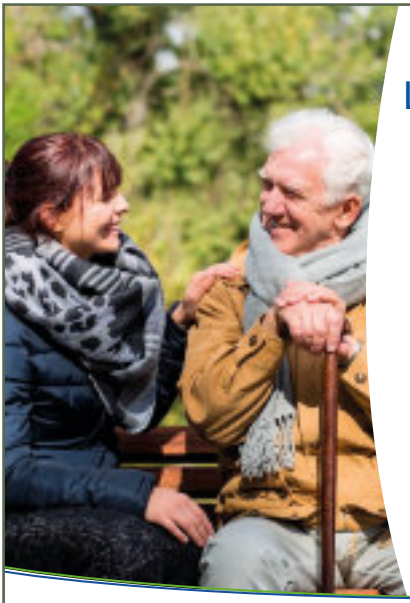
- Reading the magazine: 78% of respondents read every magazine.
- Relevance to your part of the parish: average of 4.12/5 (more than 50% gave 5 stars).
- Format preference: 44 % prefer print copies, 30% would prefer digital.
- For digital format preference: 69% would prefer an email newsletter.
- Likes: Local news and updates, “Down on the Farm”, local businesses and adverts.
- Future: Planning & housing/local plan, profiles of local people, events, and updates on the Gribble rebuild.
- Improves connections between different areas: Yes or somewhat for the great majority. Fosters community.
- Support: Some lovely offers of support and practical help which we’ll follow up on directly.

It’s important to state that, without the support of Oving Parish Council, we wouldn’t be able to maintain the magazine in its current form. We offer our thanks for their support and belief in the value of a print copy going to every resident in the parish.

Income					
Advertising			Predicted:	£ 3,215.00	
Oving Parish Council Grant			Approved	£ 5,000.00	
Subtotal					£ 8,215.00
Expenditure		**Monthly**			
Bank charges	12 months	£ 4.99		£ 59.88	
Print costs	**Pages**	**1 edition**	**3 editions**		
Average	44 pages	£ 2,674.00	£ 8,022.00	£ 8,022.00	
Subtotal					£ 8,081.88
Balance					£ 133.12

Plans for Oving District News in 2028 will be reviewed later this year.





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Updated Deadlines for Future Editions



Summer 2026: Fri 10th July

Winter 2026: Fri 6th November **Spring**

2027: Fri 12th March

Contributions and articles

Do you have something you'd like to share with the parish?
If you'd like to contribute an 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. Visit the website to see requirements and price list:

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

If you'd like to advertise 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

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

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

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CHICHESTER

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Distinctly Different



OVING JUBILEE HALL
High Street, Oving, Chichester,
West Sussex, PO20 2DQ

Registered Charity No 1077213

In December we had fabulous news that we would be receiving a generous donation from Veronica Migliorini, on behalf of the Oving Dog Training Club. Veronica was the founder of the Club but, unfortunately, the Club has had to close due to lack of volunteer trainers. Surplus funds were distributed to a few charities, of which we were one. The Management Committee decided that the money will be used to finally create our own website – it was such a lovely surprise!

We held a very well attended Christmas Fayre in December. All 3 organisers (St Andrew's Church, Friends of St Andrew's and Oving Jubilee Hall) worked hard and the profits exceeded our expectations. Footfall was up, the stalls were busy, the mulled wine and crepes sold out and the atmosphere was fantastic, helped by our guest saxophonist Vadym.

The pressure to fill, maintain and develop the Hall is ever present. Peter Roberts, our Finance and Maintenance Manager, is doing a splendid job. The Caretakers, Nick and Doug are kept busy with potential hirer viewings and upkeep of the Hall and Katie, the bookings secretary, is focused on new and regular bookings - 2026 looks like being an excellent year. All in all, we have a fantastic team. In recent months the Hall's floor has been revarnished, we purchased a scrubber/dryer, the car park 'bumps' have been removed and we created 3 new car park spaces. Next, we will install new edging and repaint the white lines.

It was lovely to hear from a few people in our Parish who want to help with organising events and, possibly, join the management committee. Do you have any ideas or suggestions on what you would like to see happen in the Jubilee Hall – we'd love to hear from you. And remember, as a parishioner you'll receive a discount when booking the Hall. I would encourage anyone who hasn't been to one of our community events to come along. They are such fun and it's also an opportunity to make new friends. You won't regret it.

Anne-Marie Eastwood
Chair, Oving Jubilee Hall Management Committee
annemariedutchy@gmail.com



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Oving Jubilee Hall - Regular Weekly Groups



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Registered Charity No 1077213
For bookings contact the Bookings Secretary Katie on 07962 932560 or Email: hall@ovingjubileehall.org.uk
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
	15.30 – 17.00	Adult Activity Club (Fortnightly)	Amy 07982 408282
Monday	9.30 – 12.30	Art Group	Barbara 01243 266193
	13.00 – 17.30	**AVAILABLE TO HIRE**	
	18.00 – 1900	Pilates	07719 985562 petrapilates1@gmail.com
	19.15 – 21.00	Pop Choir	Angie 07810 200141
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	07702 823569
	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 syparkinson@yahoo.com
	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 14.00 – 16.00	Bognor Bowls Sketch booking Group (once a month)	
Saturday	**ALL DAY**	**AVAILABLE FOR 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

Why

Wha t m a ke s
the rig ht cho i

Your local Pink Spaghetti PA:

Nicollette Baldwin



With over 40 years' experience in executive assistance, businesssupport and operational management, Ibring a deep understanding of organisational needsand a proactive approach to challengesin fast-paced environments. Before becoming a businessowner, I worked acrossboth the private and public sectors, gaining expertise in managing complex calendars, streamlining processes, and overseeing operations.

Known for discretion, adaptability and strong communication, Iexcel at building relationships, anticipating needs, and implementing solutionsthat improve efficiency and drive success.

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

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w: www.pink-spaghetti.co.uk

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

W a nt to kno w
ng e a tim e

Parish Council News

Vice Chairs Report March 2026

Over the past few months, our small team of five councillors has continued to work hard on behalf of the parish, managing a wide range of responsibilities with commitment and care. Although we are few in number, the scope of our work remains significant.

The Parish Council is responsible for the management and oversight of key areas of parish land and community facilities. These spaces sit at the heart of parish life, and we continue to maintain and improve them so they remain safe, inviting, and well used by everyone.

We also review and comment on planning applications within the parish. This year, the Planning Committee has been particularly active, including responding to a new proposal for a third large care home at Shopwyke Lakes, on the vacant land next to Longacres House. We will continue to scrutinise this application carefully and ensure that the views and concerns of residents are fully represented.

Beyond planning, we liaise regularly with relevant authorities on matters relating to infrastructure, policing, and wider community issues. Our aim is always to secure the best possible outcomes for the parish and to ensure that local voices are heard in decisions that affect daily life.

We are also constantly working on Community Highways Proposals, and supporting parishioners with an aim to reduce the speed and number of vehicles in the parish, supported by the Community Speed Watch Team.

A Call for New Councillors

While we are proud of what we have achieved, the reality is that we are a very small team carrying a very large workload. There are currently three vacancies on the Parish Council, and we urgently need more residents to step forward. Becoming a councillor is an opportunity to shape the future of the parish, support your community, and ensure local decisions reflect local priorities. No specialist experience is required — just a willingness to get involved and a desire to make a difference.

If you care about the place you live, please consider joining us.

Community Projects and Initiatives

We are currently working on projects to improve connectivity between Shopwyke Lakes and the surrounding areas of Oving, Drayton, Colworth, and Merston. Strengthening these links is essential for building a cohesive community and ensuring residents can move safely and easily between locations, enjoying the facilities provided.

Vice Chairs Report (continued)

This year, OPC is also proud to support **The Great British Spring Clean** — a national initia- tive encouraging communities to tackle litter and take pride in their local environment. We hope many residents will join us in this effort to improve the parish we all share. More information can be foun

In addition, we are investigating the feasibility of a school bus service to the Free School, recognising the need for safe, reliable transport options for local families.

Thank you to all councillors, volunteers, residents who have supported our work this year. Especially to those planning community events such as Scarecrow Day, events in Shopwyke Lakes, the Jubilee Hall and the Church. With your help, we will continue to protect, improve, and strengthen our parish for the benefit of everyone!

Duncan Marston

Acting Chair - Oving Parish Council

Parish Council Budget and Precept 2026/27

The Parish Council has approved its budget for the financial year **2026/27**, with a **precept of £91,555**.

The precept is the portion of council tax that is collected on behalf of the Parish Council by the District or Borough Council. This funding allows the Parish Council to provide and maintain a range of local services and facilities for residents.

The budget for the coming year has been carefully prepared to ensure that the Council can continue to deliver essential services while maintaining responsible fi- nancial management. Funding will support areas such as:

- Maintenance of open spaces and community assets
- Environmental improvements within the parish
- Community projects and initiatives
- Administrative and operational costs of running the council

The Parish Council continues to look for opportunities to work efficiently and deliver value for money for residents, while ensuring that services and facilities remain well maintained and accessible to the community.

Further information on the budget and how funds are allocated can be found on the Parish Council website **https://www.ovingcommunity.org.uk/** or by contacting the Clerk. **Clerk@ovingcommunity.org.uk**



Oving Scarecrow Day 9th May 2

The day starts at 11am with your scarecrows outside and ready for the photographer and judging. It is free to enter. Oving Scarecrow Day only receives funds from the money you spend on teas and raffle tickets. This money enables us to plan for Scar please be generous.

- At **11am** the local history walk starts from the Jubilee Hall, booking essential, details to follow.
- **12 noon** Jubilee Hall opens with craft stalls, refreshments, raffle and stage acts

Parking:

- This year the **main car park** will be in the field adjacent to the Jubilee Hall, please follow the stewards' directions. In the field you will also find classic cars, the Bognor Archery Club and all the attractions that formerly would have been in the Madam Green farm.
- The **Jubilee Hall car park** is reserved for blue badge holders and the tractor/trailer rides.
- The **Berrymarsh field car park** will be for volunteers and entertainers

At **St Andrews Church** there will be more scarecrows, as well as refreshments, Pimms and strawberries, face painting, music from Oving Folk, Waverley Ukes and Sompting Village Morris. Please find time to visit the **Community Garden,** where there will be more activities.

Music:

Robin Clapton's Shore Things Band will be playing from **12 to 1pm** in the Jubilee Hall. During the afternoon, Sussex Steel Band will be playing outside the hall. Sussex POP choir will be singing inside. Waverley Ukes and Oving Folk will be playing at the Church

Dancing:

Sompting Village Morris will be dancing near the Church, the Hall and in the Field. Arabesque School of Dance will be in or outside the hall, depending on the weather. Mel's Zumba Gold will be in the hall

Drama: From Applause Rural Touring this year will be 'Tidings for the Bees' all around the village.

People's choice scarecrow competition

To vote for your favourite, come to the committee room at the hall after 2pm

For more info, please see ovingscarecrows.co.uk or email sue.catlett@bt



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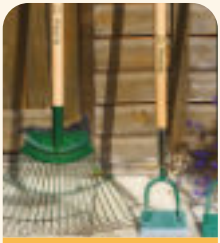
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From Simon Oakley

Our WSCC Councillor



The process towards a new Sussex wide Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) took a further step in March with the legislation establishing it being laid before Parliament, which marks the final stage required to create this new strategic author

This new Authority can produce a Spatial Development Strategy directing where strategic levels of development would be located across Sussex. The new Authority could start work on this before a Mayor is elected. This poses a challenge to Local Planning Authorities (such as CDC) as to how far they go with new Local Plans, noting their replacement by Unitary Authorities in 2028. Overall, Government is determined to considerably increase the rate of development across Sussex via new Policies and Legislation, but with little clarity as to how the scale of infrastructure necessary to support it will be funded.

As I write this, a Government announcement on what Unitarisation across Sussex will look like is expected by the end of March. Given WSCC elections will be held in May, hopefully this will provide clarity as to what those elected will be responsible for and for how long, noting the current intention to hold Unitary elections in May 2027.

The impacts of the recent exceptional rainfall on the Highways network have been significant. For Oving Parish, an on-going collateral impact is the closure of Colworth Lane due to the large numbers of vehicles using it to by-pass the A29 Shripney closures exacerbated the existing carriageway edge erosion. WSCC faces a dilemma as to what to do with this, originally, single lane with passing places rural track. The cost of permanently widening it is prohibitive but reverting it to its original form won't last as traffic levels (looking to avoid the A27 and the Drayton Lane level crossing) increase. It is a local example of the overall bind our society is now in, between how much it expects the public sector to provide and how much it can sustainably afford to meet those expectations.

The Household Support Fund is being replaced by a very different Crisis and Resilience Fund, with WSCC's Community Hub remaining as the initial point of contact. See links below.

Simon Oakley **13th March 2026**

Community Hub - West Sussex County Council

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

https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s58602/Item_No_7_-_CRF_Report.pdf

SHOPWYKE WORKING GROUP
Launched to Shape Future Community Facilities

Shopwyke has experienced a phenomenal population growth since 2015, increasing from around 125 residents to approximately 1,640. We now represent 68% of the entire population of Oving Parish. This growth has brought energy and diversity but has also made it harder for Councillors to stay closely connected with residents' priorities. While Facebook groups and Residents' Associations have supported communication, they reach only part of our community.

One message, however, has been consistently clear: Shopwyke residents want better access to local community facilities and services. In response, Oving Parish Council has created the **Shopwyke Working Group** to bring residents and Councillors together to shape the next phase of community development.

Purpose of the Working Group

The Working Group will explore and develop proposals for facilities that meet the needs of Shopwyke's growing population. Its role includes:

- Identifying which facilities and services residents value most.
- Developing ideas into detailed plans, with professional advice or exploratory works where needed.
- Submitting proposals to Full Council for approval.
- Once approved, supporting delivery of the new facility or service.

This structured approach ensures residents' ideas can be progressed transparently and in line with the Oving Neighbourhood Plan.

Link to the Oving Neighbourhood Plan

Production of the Oving Neighbourhood Plan (2021–2039) is now in its final stages and sets out the long-term vision for the Parish, including several themes directly relevant to the Shopwyke Working Group:

1. Strong Support for New Facilities

The Plan seeks to "support, develop and enhance community facilities, particularly in Shopwyke," recognising the needs of a rapidly growing community.

2. Protecting Green Spaces

It identifies Local Green Spaces and landscape gaps - including those around Shopwyke - to preserve green infrastructure, wildlife corridors, and important local views.

3. Integrating Growing Communities

With Shopwyke's rapid housing growth, the Plan emphasises improved connections, cycle routes, open spaces, and stronger links between rural and suburban areas.

4. Planning for Facilities in Growth Areas

Given Shopwyke's size and continued expansion, it is a priority location for new community facilities - supporting the rationale for creating the Working Group.

(continued)

Funding Already in Place
The Parish Council has confirmed that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds from earlier developments in Shopwyke are available to support new community facilities. This ensures that investment generated by local growth can directly benefit residents.

Potential Location
New facilities are likely to be situated within the proposed Drayton Water development, south of Shopwhyke Road and east of New Fields - well positioned to serve both long-established and newly developed areas.

A Message from Your Parish Councillor
As a long-term resident of Chichester and over a decade in Shopwyke, I have seen first-hand how much our community has grown and how many residents have expressed the need for shared spaces and opportunities to connect. The creation of the Shopwyke Working Group is a chance for all of us to shape the future of our neighbourhood.

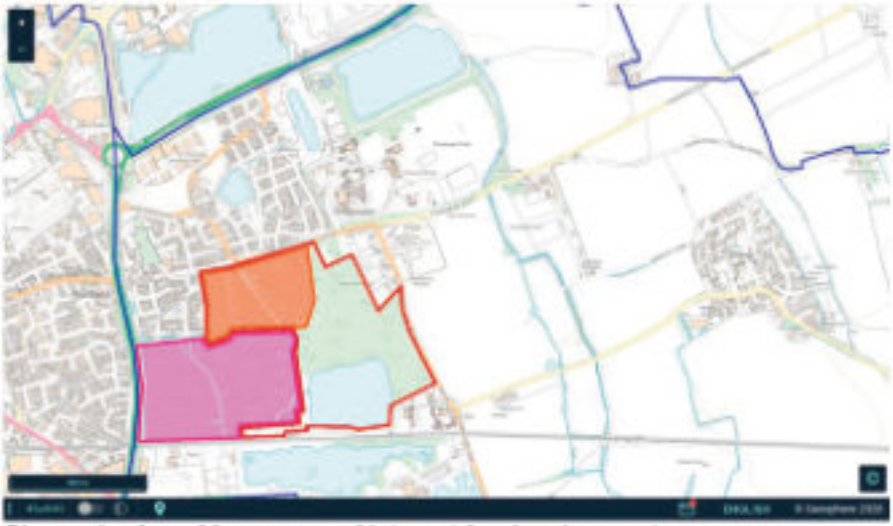
Whether your ideas relate to a community centre, green spaces, youth activities, well-being services or something new, your voice matters. I warmly invite you to get involved and share your ideas. You can contact me or the Parish Clerk using the details below - or feel free to stop me for a chat when you see me around Shopwyke.

Jeremy Matcham - email: cllr.matcham@ovingcommunity.org.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/cllr.jeremy - Telephone: 01243 790 490
or via the Parish Clerk email: clerk@ovingcommunity.org.uk



Oving Parish Boundary Map: Shopwyke area highlighted in orange

(continued)



Shopwyke Area Map: areas of interest for development

Key:
- Boundary of the A8a allocated site
- Extent of planned Drayton Water development for housing and infrastructure – see CDC Planning Ref.:22/00869/EIA
- Allocated site for future development.

OVING PARISH COMMUNITY WATCH
LUNCH AND TEA PARTY DATES FOR 2026

April 16th	TEA PARTY**	2.00pm-3.30pm
	The raffle will be donated to Chichester Stroke Club	
May 14th	TEA PARTY	2.00pm-3.30pm
June 18th	TEA PARTY	2.00pm-3.30pm
July 16th	TEA PARTY	2.00pm-3.30pm
	The raffle will be donated to Arundawn Dog Rescue	
August 20th	OUTING	To be confirmed
September 17th	TEA PARTY	2.00pm-3.30pm
October 15th	TEA PARTY	2.00pm-3.30pm
November 19th	TEA PARTY	2.00pm-3.30pm
	The raffle will be donated to Chichester Boys Club	
December 17th	CHRISTMAS LUNCH	1pm – 3pm

*Lunch will include soup, a roll, savouries, tea/coffee and cake
** Tea party will include a choice of sandwiches cakes and tea/coffee
Additional items including savouries, fruit and meringues may be added

Please make a note of the above dates for 2026

BOOK CLUB REPORT - Beryl Lang



The Angels of Venice – Philip Gwynne Jones

This novel is one of a series about Nathan Sutherland, Honorary Consul in Venice. In them he teams up with a friend in the police force to solve mysteries. He has a lovely wife, Frederika, and a bad-tempered cat, Gramsci.

When the story begins, 12th November 2019, Venice is ravaged by storms and floods. Helping his neighbour clear his flooded bar, Nathan finds a body floating in the water. It is Jenny Whitemead, come to Venice to write a book about its angels. Her death is murder, and the reader is presented with a list of suspects: Jenny's employer, who is a millionaire philanthropist; her useless boyfriend; the Mayor of Venice. Some clues are provided by students helping to clear up after the floods. All sorts of characters come and go as Nathan tries to reveal the murderer. His search is linked to a valuable sketch of angels by Dürer. It is not difficult to guess who the bad guys are. The attraction of these novels lies in Nathan's personality, his home life, plus a detailed knowledge of Venice.

The Fourth Wing – Rebecca Yarros

This book is set in a fantasy land in a mythical time. It has some similarities with *Game of Thrones*. Violet, daughter of the ruling family, is forced to leave her quiet job as a librarian to train as an elite rider. The story is about the series of tests all the candidates have to undergo; some do not survive. Each one has a dragon as a helper. Violet's is very powerful and wise. Violet discovers that her old friend Dain is an enemy, and former enemy Xaden becomes her lover. But can she trust him? Every rider has a special skill; Violet's is the ability to cause lightning. She discovers Xaden secretly leads a breakaway revolutionary group and decides to join them. Not all our group like fantasy, and it feels as if the book is more for teenagers. It is the first of a trilogy and no doubt younger readers will want to follow the adventures of Violet and her friends.

The Place of Tides – James Rebanks

Our group seem to be drawn to books about the far north: Iceland, Norway, Denmark. James Rebanks was a Cumbrian sheep farmer interested in conservation. In 2014 he goes to a group of islands off the coast of Norway, and briefly meets a remarkable woman who works with eider ducks. Several years later, disenchanted and confused, he returns to live with Anna to learn about her work. Now in her seventies, it is her final year, and her successor Ingrid is there too. Anna revived a task her grandparents used to do. She builds nests for eider ducks, and when they take their ducklings to the sea, she collects the down from their nests. It is cleaned, bagged and sold as a desirable commodity — eiderdown.

Over several months James learns all the work, and in *The Place of Tides* he describes earning the trust of the ducks, drying seaweed, making nests. He hears stories about the past, comes to terms with his life, and fully respects the "duck women" as he calls them.

(continued)

BOOK CLUB REPORT - Beryl Lang (continued)



Owing to Anna's commitment the Norwegian government now recognises the importance of the work and supports it. We were all glad

Lethal Tides – by local author, Helen Christmas

Its background is the terrible revelations about paedophile rings using orphanages in the '70s and '80s. It is now 2014, but 20 years ago Joe, Maisie and Sam were in such a place. They pledge to look after each other, but one night Maisie and Sam, with others, are taken to a party in a big country house. Joe tries to prevent Maisie going but is unsuccessful. Maisie's memories are confused but she recalls being in a forest. Next day Sam has disappeared, Maisie is hastily fostered (luckily to loving parents), and Joe is punished for trying to intervene.

Now, 20 years later, Maisie lives in Bognor and works for West Sussex Council. One evening, taking food to the homeless, she discovers Joe again among the down-and-outs. She takes him to her flat and gradually learns about his life since that night. It is difficult to describe all the people and incidents that pack this novel. Sam does turn up in strange circumstances. Maisie trusts him but Joe is suspicious. Should the reader be too? The tale dashes along to a thrilling climax and in the end Joe and Maisie are happily together and living in Pagham. Naturally, we knew the places mentioned in Bognor and surrounding villages, so that was an interesting theme, especially to those brought up in the town.

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

Shopwyke Community Group - Private Facebook Group for Shopwyke residents

****Updated: Oving Parish Council - West Sussex** - 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!

Drayton Railway: The forgotten station that was fit for a King - Cait Ford

Next time you find yourself waiting for a train or three to pass over Drayton Lane's level crossing, you might imagine a smart steam engine and handsome Pullman carriages slowing towards Drayton's now vanished train station. It might seem like an unlikely spot but this forgotten station, built in 1846 was a strategic stop for the Goodwood Races and has a surprising history.

The 5th Duke of Richmond supported the proposed Brighton to Chichester railway line - it would make the journey to the rather remote Goodwood far easier for racegoers - he was also a landowner in Drayton where the passage to the racecourse via Coach Road in Shopwyke was only 4 miles northwards. At his behest, this station was added to the line.

The Station had two platforms, waiting rooms either side and a ticket office. There was a signal box just to the east of the level crossing. Plans in 1900 also show a number of facilities: a yard, sidings, stables, stalls, an animal pen, a carriage and cattle dock and even a visitor's garden (probably tended to by the station master). The sid- ings could house all the extra trains that were laid on during race days, the stables and carriage dock would have been used by well-heeled racegoers who had their own carriages and staff to convey them up to Goodwood (there were special carriage & servants trains laid on for this purpose that would arrive early).



Image looking eastwards towards the level crossing, probably late 19th C, the gardens and station yard are out of sight on the left hand side. Reproduced from: 'Worthing to Chichester' published by Middleton Press (01730 813169, middletonpress.co.uk)

Passengers could also apply for use of a horse-drawn omnibus from the station, although there would have been plenty of 'private hire' horse-drawn vehicles on race days touting for business - sadly many of the horses employed were overworked. In the hot and dry summer months, the local roads produced a large amount of dust so the railway also employed water carriers to dampen them down. As well as all the extra staff at Drayton Station, race days were a huge undertaking. (continued)

Drayton Railway: - Cait Ford (continued)

This newspaper excerpt from 1865 paints the picture at that year's Goodwood Cup: *'On our arrival at Drayton Station we found a great scene of bustle and excitement and twenty voices dinging incessantly in our ear, 'Going up, sir?', 'Course sir', 'Here you are sir'. But like many others I did not avail myself of the many descriptions of vehicle surrounding me, but straightaway marched along the road.'*

On a normal day Drayton station was quiet with 5 trains a day stopping for passengers and 3 for goods. The small team of staff grew to a clerk, 5 porters & a station master - one of which was Mr Holden who served for 27 years. People would have also been able to flag down certain through-trains to stop, which is difficult to imagine modern trains doing today! In these days, practically every village had a goods depot servicing the local farms and businesses. Trains conveyed local agricultural goods like milk churns and sugar beet to other markets, and it's likely there were goods being received by the Goodwood estate. On a few occasions, sparks flying from passing trains started fires on surrounding farmland.



Singleton Station, a local agricultural goods depot with milk churns to illustrate how Drayton would have looked. Credit: Ian Serraillier

In 1881, a station was built at Singleton as part of the Chichester to Midhurst line but many still preferred Drayton - records show that 1st class passengers were still bound for Drayton instead of Singleton. The royal family were frequent visitors to Goodwood and used Drayton many times over the years - on these occasions the station would be decorated, closed off with a police presence and locals would have gathered to watch in the station yard. The below 1910 photograph shows King Edward 7th turning down Coach Road by carriage (did the road name come from such coaches that passed through during race days?). A few years later, the newly crowned George V alighted at Drayton from the royal train.

Drayton Railway: - Cait Ford (continued)

By 1930, motor cars and buses were gaining in popularity. Drayton stopped its passenger services (locals could still try flagging down a passing train) but continued as a stop for goods trains with its large yard and depot which of course still exists today.

Finally the station closed in 1963, with its platforms and buildings once a stone's throw from the level crossing demolished. Nature has since reclaimed the edges of the tracks and you would never know it's regal past.



A small crowd have gathered to watch the King and Prince of Wales pass through Shopwyke.



A much reduced station post-1930s. Note how the houses have since been removed and the depot now fully occupies this space. The signal box is no more. This is by the level crossing looking westwards. Reproduced from: 'Worthing to Chichester' published by Middleton Press (01730 813169, middletonpress.co.uk)

More information at:

https://substack.com/@caitfordlocalhistory

Oving Community Garden Group

Welcome to our OCG news!

Garden Highlights

We continue to weed the beds, cut the grass and try to keep things neat and tidy, I'm pretty sure that seems to be all we do sometimes!

The strawberries are still growing, but the turnips and carrots did not survive, that'll teach us to plant out of season – we learn and keep going.





We'd like to know your thoughts!



If you have a spare minute, please scan the QR code and complete the online form. Tell us what you think we should be growing to give to the community this Summer/Autumn.

Don't worry it's anonymous and we will not collect any of your personal data, it only takes a minute.

~Thank you ~

Upcoming Events



Scarecrow day on Saturday 9th May!!

We hope you will all come and **sow a seed to grow into a plant to encourage bees** for the whole of our community – creating an **Oving Bee Corridor**

There will also be:

- Big outdoor games for the kids.
- A prize if you spot all the clues around the garden.
- And find out what we'll be up to over the next few months.

Gardener's Tip of the Season

For our area right now, the most useful gardener's tip of the season is to get ahead of the spring surge by preparing beds early and protecting tender growth from coastal swings in temperature.

Preparing beds for early spring growth

Soil will still be cool and nutrient- light after **months** of rain. The highest-impact steps you can do now are:

- Add a 3–5 cm layer of compost to replenish nutrients lost over winter and boost microbial activity.
- Avoid digging deeply unless the soil is compacted.
- Remove overwintered weeds before they seed—mild winters mean they stay active longer here.

Because our area gets high winter rainfall and strong winds, nutrients leach faster than inland gardens. Adding slow- release organic matter now (compost, seaweed, leaf mould) gives plants a steady supply through spring without the surge-and-crash of fast fertilisers.

All the best and Happy Gardening!

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Google Reviews ★★★★★

When one gets to a certain age the use of phrases like ‘the world has gone mad’ become more and more part of one’s vocabulary. I had one such moment last week.

Swedish plant-based drinks manufacturer Oatly lost their appeal in the Supreme Court to be allowed to call their oat drink, ‘milk’. This was on the back of a decision made in the Court of Appeal in 2024, banning the use of the word “milk” in Oatly’s marketing.

A quick reference to the Oxford Dictionary told me what I (and any sane person) know – that milk is a “whitish fluid, rich in fat and protein, secreted by the mammary glands of female mammals”. No mention of oats (or soya or almonds).

So the ruling was entirely logical and though I couldn’t help wonder who at Oatly was daft enough to take this to the Supreme Court, it was the press statement from Oatly that prompted my ‘world has gone mad’ moment: Oatly stated that the decision would create unnecessary confusion and create an uneven playing field for plant-based products to the benefit of the dairy sector. This has been the cause of considerable derision in the food industry but it also an illustration as to how much we are gradually being separated from the reality of ‘real food’ as almost everything we consume is highly processed and controlled by muti national conglomerates.

We are dairy farmers of course and so you may feel that my rant here is a bit myopic, but we also produce oats for Organic oat milk (not for Oatly!) and so have a foot in both camps. But I know what milk is and what it’s not. But it’s not the principle that vexes me but the marketing and the deceit. Imported beef and pork, for example, are labelled as British by the supermarkets because they are packaged (not produced) here in the UK. Imported fruit and vegetables are grown using chemicals that are banned on safety grounds in the UK and imported chicken and pork are produced to low welfare standards that are rightly illegal here. There is now a new buzzword, ‘regenerative farming’, that is being latched on to as some form of new ecofriendly way of producing food –

Fresh organic milk, coffee, milkshakes 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 - 500ml or 1L options
- Six delicious milkshake flavours
- Range of coffees & hot chocolate made with Woodhorn Farm milk
- Dairy products and organic eggs
- Treats including brownies and fudge

Open hours
We're open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!
(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.

Find us at

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Woodhorn Farm

woodhornfarm.co.uk

yet it is utterly dependent on the use of a pesticide called Glyphosate (Roundup) that is banned in many countries around the world due to its carcinogenic properties.

It's hard to believe the weather will change at the moment (writing 28 Feb) but spring will come, fields will drain and the grass will grow. If we turned our softy southern cows outside now they would probably go on strike but give it a few more weeks even they will be ready to venture outside again. Flooded fields have inevitably damaged crops and we will have to re sow some of those sown last autumn. We would hope to be sowing spring barley in March and Maize in April. No doubt the ground will be too dry by then!

Many of you will have known Peter Ives of Wayside who sadly passed away on the 7th of February. Peter was a true pioneer of Organic farming and farmers such as me merely followed in the footsteps of people like Peter who proved that it was possible to produce quality food without the chemistry set that accompanies modern farming today. Bart and Debbie have of course run Wayside Organics for many years, and best wishes go out to them and their family from all of us at Woodhorn.

JP 28.2.26

P.s. Oatly made a loss of net loss of $153 million in 2025. Maybe a little less time in court and a little more time reading a dictionary might be advised?



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Traffic Calming For Oving Village

Dear Residents,

I just wanted to say a huge thank you for all your support of my consultation in the last issue of the ODN. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our West Sussex County Councillor, Simon Oakley, for his guidance on this. My application for this will be submitted by the time you receive this issue.

Kind regards,
Cllr Alan Smith, Oving Parish Council 12th March 2026



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Pins and Pinot



I look like I belong in an Edwardian home but I was made recently, in 2022 and have travelled far and wide since that day. I started life with the very talented Pins and Pinot group making my crochet tiles and surround, then my lovely fire, which never goes out, or needs re-stoking, was knitted in beauti- ful shades or orange, red and yellow. To make sure that I could stand up, a very clever craftsman made a wooden frame on which I am stretched. Then some bunting made from little scare- crows for decoration, though I don

For a while I basked in the sun and had very many people come and sit on the bench and take my photo. I liked this ver in a dark loft, where I didn't see anyone and was very lonely. After a few months of this when I thought I had been completely forgotten, I was taken out and put in a big place full of colour and light and a very jolly man with a white beard and a red coat. I liked this place, I saw lots of children and everyone was very happy but then it was back to the loft!

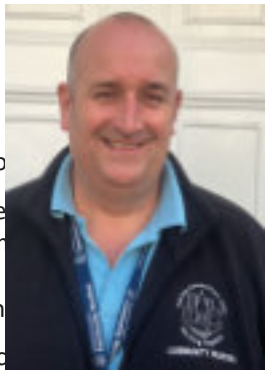
Tales of a travelling fireplace

As I am a fireplace, I have no sense of time and I don't understand what people tell me so life is full of wonderful surprises, especially when I found myself on something called a stage. Elmer Entertainers wanted me in their production of One Night Only. Lots of people came to see me, the actors thought they were coming to see the play, but I knew that they had really come to see me and admire my wonderful colours. After all too short a time, it was back to the loft and then, amazingly, Christmas again and the lovely children and colourful room.

I hope that I'll be out in the sun again to see all the scarecrows on 9th May. Please come and see me! Sit beside me, watch the people go by and listen to the band.

If you like sewing, knitting or crafting of any kind, or just chatting and admiring other people's crafts, come to the Pins and Pinot group, first Monday in the month from 7.30 to 9pm, in the absence of The Gribble, we're nomads too, so call or message Martina on 07812 454715 to find out where we are meeting.

Community Warden - Jimmy Upton



Hi, I am Jimmy Upton your Community Warden. My role involves working in the community with youth and elderly vulnerable people giving advice and support. I also do a fair amount of litter picking around the village and fly tipping patro

I also build up relationships with partner agencies for example Sussex Police and Housing Associations. If you have a question or problem and do not know who to ask, please contact me and I will see what I can do to help or sign post you to the righ

I would like to make you aware of a growing issue of "Romanc growing trend of people being conned by scammers where an estimated £106 million was conned out of people in the financial year 2024/25 where the average victim lost £11,222

The most common age range conned were 55-64 although the fraud is reported over a much larger age range. 85% of the cases were started "online" through social media or dating websites.

The main problem is that everyone wants or needs to love and be loved. These criminals prey on the lonely and vulnerable taking advantage of the victims being too trusting and their good nature.

Once taken in it is very hard to accept you have been scammed, and victims often refuse to believe it is a scam or too proud to admit they have been taken in.

Watch out for these common characteristics and tactics:

- Fake persona – fraudsters use fake often stolen photos and stories with 49% of users on platforms matching alternate persona and 26% were suspected AI
- Manipulation: scammers spend time building up trust and emotional connection to prevent victims from questioning requests for money
- Urgency – the fraudsters will put pressure on you to send money being an emergency and the money need asap
- Common Excuses: fraudsters frequently claim to be working abroad, in the armed forces, charity work etc which is why they cannot meet in person
- Scammers use your emotions to get your money! They will say they are sick, stranded abroad, lost their banks cards -and need help – what they want is your MONEY!
- They will tell you to keep the relationship secret – never agree to this

Remember the point of the scam is to GET YOUR MONEY! Never send money or bank details, crypto currency to someone you have never met in person. (continued)

Community Warden - Jimmy Upton (continued)

- Take it slow - avoid rushing into a relationship – be wary of quick declarations of love
- Scammers avoid giving out too much information about themselves steering conversations back about you
- Do not leave genuine dating websites to have conversations as scammers prefer to use emails text or phone
- Verify Identity: use reverse image searches to check profile pictures – copy the image and put it back through Google and see what comes up!

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 WHATSAP but you can contact me by either email or mobile telephone on: 07768210358 **jupton@chichester.gov.uk**

Jaxson's Owl



Many of you may have noticed the arrival of Owlphabet Spaghetti, from the original 2024 Big Hoot trail, at the Oving Jubilee Hall. The Big Hoot was the brainchild of Chestnut Tree House, the children's hospice for Sussex and East Hampshire, to raise aware- ness of the charity, the amazing work they do and to raise funds around the Chichester and Arundel areas.

Chestnut Tree House does not just care for children with life limiting conditions at the hospice but helps all their families and also children within the local communities to live as full a life as possible - whatever their condition. They also support and care for many families after the death of a child with ongoing bereavement care.

The Big Hoot ended with a grand auction of all the owls to raise additional much needed funds for the charity, and Owlphabet Spaghetti was 'won' by Jaxson's family. With thanks to all of Oving and with the permission of both the Parish Council and the Trustees of the Oving Jubilee Hall, Jaxson's owl now stands tall and proud, in both memory of Jaxson, and as a reminder and encouragement to all to enjoy time with family and friends - all are precious.

Jaxson Steel - 03/11/22 - 06/04/24

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have a "Family Announcement" that you would like others to know about, in particular notice of deaths, please let me or the editor, know.

Di Pitts (Tel: 07833 364873)

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peter Ives of Wayside, Church Lane, sadly passed away peacefully on the 7th of February a few weeks short of his 96th birthday. Newer residents may not know of him as he moved to Oving with his wife Jane in the mid-1950s but here he worked as a market gardener, an egg producer, flower grower, as a foreman at Sampson's Mushrooms and as a sig- nalman at Drayt



Post-retirement he helped with the early days of Wayside Organics bringing a his experience of vegetable markets and organic growing techniques to bear. He was also familiar to many as he and Jane staffed the legendary Wayside shop-shed in the pre-covid years whilst he was still happily delivering organic veg boxes well

He ended his days a little old man in a litt his positive attitude to life was reflected i many tributes paid to him across social m

His wife Jane predeceased him in 2011, and he is survived by his son Bart., daughter-in-law Debbie and grandson Solly.

He will be very greatly missed and never forgotten by all that were fortunate enough to know him. X

Peter John Ives 10th April 1930 – 7th February 2026.

Liz Smith: Former Oving Parish Councillor, founder of Oving Parish Community Watch and the Tea Parties. Sadly missed.

Christopher Stanley Keates (Chris): 11 November 1953 – 11 January 2026.

HAMNET directed by Chloe Zhao

FILM REVIEW by ANNIE BENNETT

The film opens in what can only be described as a super stylised Stratford countryside, with Anne/Agnes (Jessie Buckley) searching for herbs and fungi whilst flying her hawk. She is locally rumoured to be the daughter of a forest witch and makes her living dispensing salves and medical advice.

She meets a young Will Shakespeare (Paul Mescal) the son of a glove maker, who is tutoring the local worthies' children, but secretly trying to write. There is instant chemistry between them, and against his family's wishes, he pursues her, impregnates her at her behest and so they marry and move in with his family. His Mother Mary (Emily Watson) is openly hostile. As the pregnancy nears its end, Agnes refuses her mother-in- law's concerns and takes herself off to her beloved woods to give birth to Susannah.

At first all is well, but Will's frustration with trying to write and being a new Father builds to the point where Agnes suggests he go to London to pursue his passion alone. She is now pregnant again and this time, her mother-in-law prevails and she gives birth at home. Unbeknownst she is having twins, the first, a boy Hamnet is delivered alive, the second a girl appears to be still-born. Agnes will not accept this and by sheer persistence, the child eventually breathes…this is Judith.

Fast forward 11 years and the family are happy, even though Will travels regularly to London whilst Agnes and the children stay in Stratford. When he is home the children playact for their parents. Hamnet's desire is to sword fight on the stage. Will is now beginning to make a name for himself writing and acting. You know what is coming.

The plague is rife in London, but it is Judith in Stratford that falls ill with it.

At last Agnes and Mary support each other and Judith pulls through, exactly at the time Hamnet becomes gravely ill. Will is summoned back but arrives after Hamnet's death.

Agnes is beyond comfort, but Will must return to London. Her brother Bartholomew (Joe Alwyn) urges her to go too and see the new play Hamlet which has garnered great reviews.

FILM REVIEW by ANNIE BENNETT (continued)

At the Globe, Agnes makes her way to front of stage and is entranced by the actor playing Hamlet and finally smiles after all her travails.

The film loosely follows Maggie O'Farrell's book of the same name, losing some of the poetry, but gaining superbly from the camera work. The countryside looks gorgeous, a little too clean and tidy, but bucolic and quintessentially English.

Jessie Buckley's performance is outstanding; the film is hers. Jacobi Jupe who plays Hamnet is astonishing, and it was a stroke of genius to have his older brother Noah Jupe play Hamlet at the Globe.

It probably does sag a little in the middle, but it manages to tug at the heart strings without being overly sentimental. Superb performances all round and a script and music score that dovetails brilliantly.

Chichester Open Studios 2026 - VENUE 50

Martingales, Colworth PO20 2DS

2026 sees the 25th anniversary of this annual local art event. From its very beginnings in 2001 as "Open Doors", Chichester Open Studios – Art Trail (COS) has established itself as an exciting event in the Chichester art event calendar. There are several local artists close to Oving taking part, one of them, Sue England at **Venue 50** invites you to come along to see what she has been up to in the last 2 years with mostly new work, paintings, prints, cards, handmade books, journals and sketchbooks. She is joined at her venue by local ceramicist Liz Hanan showing a selection of ceramics, some raku fired, and a collection of stunning ceramic waxed clay books which have recently been on exhibition at two London Art Fairs with Woolff Gallery. Both Sue and Liz exhibit regularly with local art groups at Oxmarket Contemporary in Chichester and with other galleries further afield. The COS booklets will soon be available in the Village Hall, giving details of all participants but if you need more in formation, don't hesitate to contact Sue on 07929772206 or sueengla@gmail.com or through her website at www.sueengland.co.uk

Saturday 16th May – Sunday 17th May

Saturday 23th May – Sunday 24th May, Bank Holiday Monday 25th May,

10.30 - 5.00 daily. ***We look forward to seeing you!***



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. We contribute to other Church maintenance projects as and when required.

The Christmas Fayre held on Sat 6th December was very successful and enjoyable. The Friends made a healthy profit to help support the Church.

We continue to run our 3 monthly Lottery with two cash prizes. Winners this time last January were Jim Richardson £100 and Clive Sayer £50. We are very grateful for everyone's continuing support!

The Race Night will have already happened on the 21st March which I'm sure was a great success! Our next big fundraiser will be our ever-popular **QUIZ NITE on Sat 10th October 2026**

Thank you for your continuing support – Spring is upon us!

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

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A Note from the Rectory



St. Andrew's Church in Oving is currently in another extended period of interregnum ie we have no permanent Priest to take the Services in either Oving or Tangmere and are reliant in the kindness of retired local clergy which has worked out very well. However, on occasions no one is available so it is then the responsibility of one of the Churchwardens to lead an AM Prayer Service and provide a 'Thought for the Day.' The one below is the one that I delivered on Sunday 22nd February 2026 which I thought would be of interest to a wider audience.

Tony Barnard, Churchwarden

'And Did Those Feet….'

'And did those feet in ancient time' is a short poem by William Blake from the preface to his epic Milton: a Poem over 200 years ago in 1804 whilst he was living in a cottage in Felpham, West Sussex. Blake was inspired by the legend that a young Jesus, accompanied by Joseph of Arimathea, visited England - making it heaven on earth. It was this poem that was put to music written by C. Hubert H. Parry in 1916 that is best known as the hymn 'Jerusalem'. Sir Edward Elgar re-scored the work for very large orchestra in 1922 and Elgar's orchestration has overshadowed Parry's own, primarily because it is the version usually used now for the Last Night of the Proms.

As far back as I can remember it has always been my favourite hymn. I sang it in school Assemblies, it was sung at my wedding and hopefully it will be sung at my funeral.

There is something about the rousing lyrics and soaring melodies that is so captivating but at its heart it is the legend, that the young Jesus came with his uncle Joseph of Arimathea to walk upon 'England's mountains green' the hills of Cornwall and Devon and create a new Jerusalem amongst the 'dark satanic mills' of the industrial revolution that is the most engaging of all. Joseph was, the Gospels tell us in a Latin version of the Bible; a nobilis decurio – regarded by the Romans as being a high official. It is therefore, very possible that he was an affluent Jew from the professional merchant class and if he was a merchant, he would most probably have been that a trader and very likely a trader in metals and minerals.

We know from the bible that Jesus disappears from the Gospels between the age of 12 and 30 and the time in between is a mystery but the presence in Christ's life of a rich metal-trading uncle might explain these missing years. Perhaps Uncle Joseph took the young Jesus on a long metal-trading voyage to the most famous mines in the ancient world – in Cornwall. There is evidence that tin was extracted in Cornwall as far back as 2,000BC. So famous and valuable was this historic resource which was vital for making bronze that it was known to ancient writers far away from Britain.

It is certainly the case that people from the eastern Mediterranean had visited Cornwall to trade for tin for at least 1,000 years by the time Jesus was born. (continued)

Ancient historians like Herodotus recorded that the Phoenicians sailed from the ports of Tyre and Sidon – little more than 50 miles from Nazareth – to islands off the west coast of Europe via the Straits of Gibraltar. The Phoenicians definitely used Cornish tin, and archaeological finds from the Mediterranean can be traced back to the Ding Dong mine near Penzance and it is believed that the mine supplied tin ore used to build King Soloman's Temple in Jerusalem but the Phoenicians also jealously guarded the secret of the source of their tin, and ancient Greek and Roman accounts are vague as to the islands' exact location.

Strangely, early Cornish tin miners were known to chant 'Joseph was in the tin trade' as they worked. He is also mentioned in traditional miners' songs but the question still arises as to why Jesus travelled with Joseph of Arimathea. It could be, that he worked as a carpenter - there would have been little work in his home village. Another theory is that Joseph may have become Jesus' guardian under Roman law. This would have come about if Mary had become a widow. There is no mention of her husband after Jesus was a boy, so he may well have died. Therefore, the story of Jesus stepping ashore in Cornwall at St. Just In Roseland could just possibly be true.

Glyn S. Lewis, author of 'Did Jesus Come to Britain?', has concluded after a lifetime of research that Christ did in fact come to our shores not once but twice, visiting Cornwall and Somerset.

And Dr Gordon Strachan, former Church of Scotland minister and Oxford history graduate, went further, stating that Jesus came here as part of His boyhood education and studied sacred geometry and spiritual matters with the druids of ancient Britain at Glastonbury.

Lewis told The Mail on Sunday: 'The legend that Jesus came here is very strong. It is a historical fact that Christianity came to Cornwall very early on.

'St Augustine was sent here by Pope Gregory in the 6th Century to convert the English, but when he got to the western part of Britain; he found people already worshipping Christ.'

However, there is no real documentary support for Joseph being anything but what the Bible says: a rich sympathiser of Jesus. So, is the legend just an old Cornish tin miners' story? Perhaps but there is however, one location, where even the most cynical stone hearted septic may experience a sense of doubt and a feeling of wonder. On the remotest part of the Roseland Peninsula just beneath the hamlet of Bohortha, lies the ancient and disused church of St Anthony. A curious carving of the Lamb of God decorates the crumbling 1,000 year arch above its door, inscribed with hieroglyphics said to commemorate Jesus's birth and that he and Joseph landed at this spot in Cornwall. Others of course disagree.

But as many people over the years have stated there is no doubt at all that if you stand on the green hills above St Anthony and stare out at the tiny bay you cannot but help experiencing a feeling of being uplifted and at ease with the world. Maybe it is the combination of the light, sky, water and tranquillity or is this what Blake really meant as being Jerusalem after all?

Tony Barnard and Ralph Godfrey - Churchwardens

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Phoenix Art Group



At the start of the winter session most of the group tried portraits using the Loomis method of drawing that uses simple forms and measured landmarks to construct the human head in any angle. Andrew Loomis was an American illustrator, writer, and art instructor.

The group then drew one another which was followed by a demonstration of using water colour for a portrait.

In the following weeks most of the group worked on portraits or did their own thing, while one continued with a painting on canvas of the ruined Gribble Inn.











A work in progress.

We meet in the Jubilee Hall and 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 summer session will start 11th May and end on the 3rd August. 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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Oving District News

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If so, please send details to the Editor.

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