

THE ORACLE

WINTER 2024
ISSUE 121



ORAC NEWS

WHATS ON...

A POSTCARD FROM...

BIN COLLECTION DATES FOR 2025

**QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR THE VILLAGE OF
OCCOLD & SURROUNDING AREA**

Issue 121 of The Oracle was compiled and edited by:

Gill Chapman

Would you like to be part of the editorial team? No experience required, just basic IT skills and the ability to work to a deadline as part of a friendly, collaborative team.

Please get in touch via email: oracle@occold.com

The Oracle is a quarterly magazine published in March (Spring), June (Summer), September (Autumn) and December (Winter). Deadlines for each edition are usually around the 14th of the preceding month.

To Advertise in the Oracle please contact Gill at orac.treasurer@occold.com with your advert. Prices remain the same for another year:

4 issues	Full page	£54	1 issue	Full Page	£15
4 Issues	Half Page	£30	1 Issue	Half Page	£8
4 issues	¼ page	£15	1 issue	¼ page	£4

Revenue from advertising in The Oracle goes to ORAC, helping to fund the production of the magazine and the maintenance and development of the Village Hall, playing field, playground and village green. Our thanks go to **Occold Primary school** who are involved in printing the magazine.

All submissions for publication should be emailed to oracle@occold.com

Use these settings in Word:

Font: Calibri 14

Narrow margins

Paragraphs: no spacing

No headers or footers

Submit a word, small pdf or jpg file

Guidance is on the village website www.occold.onesuffolk.net

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this edition.

If you have an interesting hobby or have visited somewhere of interest and feel you could write an article for the magazine, your input would be much appreciated.

Village Hall Bookings: villagehall@occold.com or 01379 678198

Cover photo: Robin – Gill Chapman

ORAC News

Autumn has ticked along fairly quietly at the Village Hall with our regular users returning after the summer break and some extra bookings coming in.

In September we had our annual inspection of the playground and were pleased that a number of previous issues have been reduced from last year due to a number of tasks having been completed. Many of you may have noticed that the swings have been painted and our thanks go to Tori Matta for his efforts. They look as good as new!

The main issue however has been the Zip Line and following a further inspection we have had to take it out of service until we can facilitate more major repairs. We have had some quotes from playground companies that deal in these specialist types of equipment repair and are currently applying for funding/grants to enable us to move forward with the necessary repairs.

Thanks you to all those who have commented on the value of the zip line, they will provide valuable support to our funding bids.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Fair at the end of November. This year we worked closely with The Friends of Occold School and shared the funds raised with them. We are looking forward to the annual Orac Christmas Dinner on 7th December.

Our fund raising efforts for the season will help towards the playground improvements, rectifying the drainage issue under the village green and other maintenance issues that arise.

We are delighted to host the Dove Players again in January for their pantomime, Treasure Island. Please see their advert further on for booking details.

Minutes of meetings are available at occold.onesuffolk.net

ORAC Committee 2024:

Vacant	Chair	email: orac.chairman@occold.com
Gill Chapman	Treasurer	email: orac.treasurer@occold.com
Carol Peters	Secretary	email: orac.secretary@occold.com

Nigel Woodhouse, Dan Hull, Russell Grange, Gordon Erhorn, Johanna Matta

New members are welcome at any time. If you would like to be involved please contact anyone on the committee.



What's on in the Village Hall:

Coffee Mornings

1st Monday of the month:
2nd December, 6th January, 2025, 3rd February 2025,

Soup Lunches

*Last Friday in the month:
none in December, 24th January 25, 28th February*

Craft Club

3rd Wednesday of the month:
18th December, 15th January 2025, 19th February

Table Tennis

*every Monday 6 – 7.30pm - New Players always
welcome, no need to book. £3 per person*

Bellicise

every Thursday morning 10 - 11am

Transformational Yoga

*Tuesday evenings & Friday mornings– see posters
for dates and times.*

WI meetings

1st Wednesday of the month –
4th December, 8th January 2025, 5th February

Orac meetings

*7.30pm - please contact secretary if you wish to
attend. Dates to be confirmed*

Parish Council meetings

1st Monday of the month, 8pm. Please check dates
with Clerk if you wish to attend

ORAC Christmas meal

Saturday 7th December

JBC Carol Service

22nd December with Castleton Brass Band from
6.30pm

Pantomime – Treasure Island

*Friday 10th & Saturday 11th January 2025 7pm,
Saturday matinee @ 2pm – see poster*

JBC Darts Night

Saturday 25th January 2025, 7 for 7.30pm



A Postcard from ... *Shetland*



As part of our adventures in June which included stays in Yorkshire, Scotland, Orkney and Northumberland, we also visited Shetland. This was a “first” and hopefully will be repeated.

If you like:

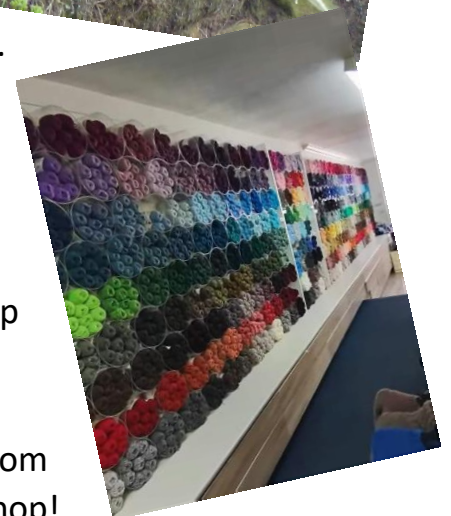
- Museums
- Scenery
- Wildlife
- Good food (especially cake)
- Friendly locals
- Craft
- History

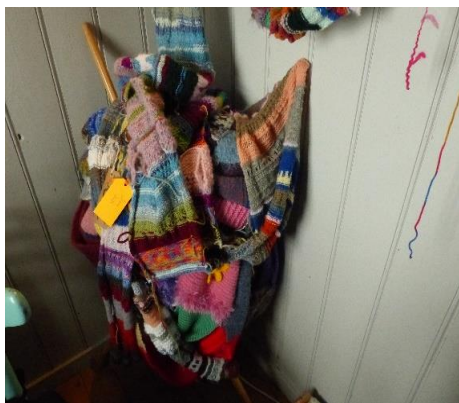


Then Shetland is for you and it won't disappoint. If you are also a fan of the TV series 'Shetland' you will recognise many of the locations used.

We were there for 5 days and I enjoyed it all but of course there were highlights. I saw puffins at Sumburgh Head so that was a tick off my bucket list. Then there were Cake Sheds... a bit like our Egg Shed but full of home-made cake!

Lerwick is the capital and it was such a change to wander round a town with not a nail bar or vape shop in sight. Other than Smiths, Boots and Superdrug all the shops were independently owned. My favourite was Jamiesons, a wool shop with a whole wall of Shetland wool in a vast array of colours. Then there was the lady selling goats milk soap that she made herself and added essential oils to. So many scents to choose from and beautifully wrapped. I was like a child let loose in a sweetshop!





There is a huge museum (free) that tells the story of Shetland which is a 'must' and also a small textile museum. This is a community museum dedicated to the island's textile heritage, especially knitting. There you can leave your mark by adding a row or two to the Muckle Gravit (big scarf), started in 2004.

You then sign a book to record your rows.



We met many interesting people only too willing to talk about their heritage and life on Shetland today.

I was fortunate to visit the studio of Wendy, the Burra Bear lady. Some years back Wendy made 2 bears as a gift for her sister and now she has orders from all



over the world. Her bears have a distinctive shape and she makes them out of Shetland and Fair Isle jumper pieces. She told me how originally she could buy jumpers in charity shops as they were out of fashion but that is not the case now. She now buys knitted panels from a local company that are left over when a run of machine made jumpers is completed. She buys by the sack load and then washes them to gently felt them so they make strong bears. She also makes personal memory bears out of jumpers that previously belonged to someone who has passed away. So when Ted was buying a Shetland jumper I was looking at it and thinking 'Yes; that would make a good memory bear'!

So lots to do and see, but wrap up warm!

Sara Hampson





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Eye Bach Choir

Christmas Concert

Conductor Leslie Olive

Supported by
the New Buckenham Silver Band



Eye Bach Choir
Founded in 1974, Conductor: Leslie Olive



13 December, 7.30pm
Eye Town Hall
Eye, Suffolk

**Seasonal drinks
& mince pies**

**Tickets £12 each
£20 for two
(advance bookings only)**

Book via
eyebachchoir.co.uk/book-tickets/
or from The Handyman Store, Eye

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for Dementia

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making music



Eye Bach Choir is a registered charity. No: 1114948

Advertise in this space

for 4 issues £15

1 issue £4

Full page:

4 issues £54

1 issue £15

Half Page

4 Issues £30

1 Issue £8

Contact Gill: oracle@occold.com

Suffolk Mobile Library Route 5

The mobile library visits Occold every 4 weeks on a Friday stopping in

The Street, 15.10 – 15.25

Next visit is 20th December

Dates for 2025 are not available at time of printing

We have a lift which can be used to help anyone with mobility difficulties access the bus.

For more information please visit our website: www.suffolklibraries.co.uk or call our customer service on 01473 351249.

It is free to get a library card.

You can reserve books online and collect from the mobile library.



Occold Village Hall is available to book for various events including parties, celebrations, sales etc

£10 per hour

Please check the booking calendar for availability at:

occold.onesuffolk.net/services/village-hall and complete the online booking form - or ring Di on 01379 678198

5 Winter Flower Anagrams

Re-arrange the letters of these words to find five popular winter-flowering plants. (Answers below)

Abandon Enamel



Acorn Sums



Brewery Starter



Tweeters Win

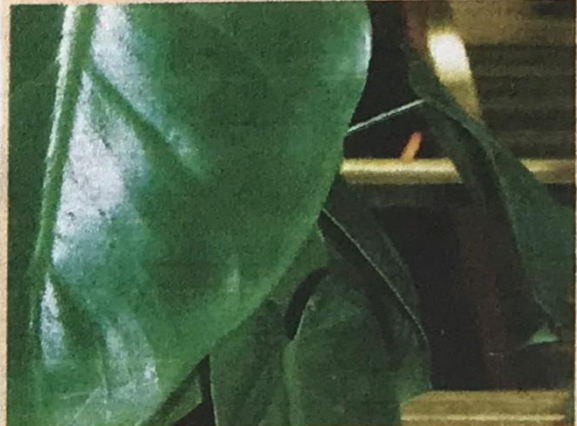


Wheat Zilch



5 romantic plant anagrams

Rearrange the letters of these anagrams to find the common names of five plants that have "love"-ly names! (Answers below)



Set Weather Vein



Heritage Blends



Loving Edible Eels



She Aerates



Snail Motive

Lucy's news – update from Mid Suffolk District Council

Grants for community activities

We are lucky to have so many great charities, social enterprises and community groups in our area. This month I wanted to highlight some of the grants available from Mid Suffolk District Council for community projects.

You can find details of all the District Council's community grants – including the ones described below - here: <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding>

The District Council has a very helpful grants team: please do email them if you have any questions or want to know which grants might be right for your project.

You can contact them at: BMSDCgrants@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Locality Awards

The small Locality Award is open to groups in Eye, Occold and Redlingfield. The minimum grant is £250, and applications can be for a wide range of things, including costs for community events. Best of all, the application form is very short! This fund does get allocated very fast: if your group would like to apply – especially if you have never applied before - please do get in touch.

You can see details of how to apply – and which groups have received funding – here: <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards>

Two of the other regular grants are:

- The **Capital Grant** – up to £10,000 for improvements or repairs to community facilities.
- The **Community Development Grant** – up to £20,000 for groups looking to develop a project or service where a 'gap' or need has been identified.

Application 'windows' for these vary, so it's a good idea to keep an eye on the website for deadlines.

Eye Turbines Fund - Groups within 10km radius of the wind turbines at Eye can apply for up to £1,000 for projects for renewable energy or energy efficiency, or biodiversity projects including tree planting.

Sustainable Communities Food Fund - for small-scale food projects, such as community pantries. Grants can cover things like training for volunteers, equipment, planters or fruit trees.

The Rural Communities Fund covers things such as creation of spaces for community and business use; net zero infrastructure within communities, and rural tourism activity. The **Rural Culture and Creativity Fund** provides grants for arts, culture and heritage projects.

Finally – Mid Suffolk District Council can also support eligible projects with **free tree, hedge and wildflower packs**. Please do get in touch if interested.

We want to make sure funding gets to the local groups that need it and that help to make this a great place to live, so please do spread the word.

With many thanks to all our local community organisations and volunteers, for everything you do!

For District Council issues, please get in touch and I will try my best to help:

- email lucy.elkin@midsuffolk.gov.uk or phone 07928 512590
- For news and updates, find me on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CllrLucy

See you soon, Lucy (District Councillor for Eye, Occold and Redlingfield)

Useful numbers

- Citizens Advice – for advice on benefits, debts, heating bills and lots more, call 01449 676060 / 01449 676 280 – or pop in to see Citizen’s Advice in Eye Library on Friday mornings (no appointment needed)
 - Report flooding in your property: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/report-a-flood-in-suffolk>
 - Report other types of flooding: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/report-a-flood-in-suffolk>
- To report a power cut, call [105](tel:105). You can also search, track and report power cuts online: <https://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/>
- Damaged power lines – please stay away and call [105](tel:105). If there is an immediate risk to safety, please also call [999](tel:999)
- Fallen or overhanging trees – if there is an immediate danger, please call Suffolk Highways on [0345 606 6171](tel:03456066171). If not, you can report fallen trees or debris on the road at highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk
 - For updates on the Orwell Bridge, please go to www.trafficengland.com or www.twitter.com/highwayseast
- Report a blocked drain to Suffolk County Council: <https://suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/highway-drainage/report-a-blocked-drain>
- If your water supply has been affected, please call Essex & Suffolk Water on [0345 782 0999](tel:03457820999).
- If your property has been affected by sewage flooding or there is a sewerage issue, please report to Anglian Water or call their 24-hour emergency number: [03457 145 145](tel:03457145145)
 - Floodline Telephone: [0345 988 1188](tel:03459881188) or visit [GOV.UK flood alerts](https://gov.uk/flood-alerts) for more information
- Dangerous structures please contact customer services on [0300 1234 000](tel:03001234000) (Option 5) or out of hours call [0808 168 7794](tel:08081687794)

Orac Coffee Mornings

First Monday in the month 9.30 – 12.00

Next dates: 2nd December

6th January 2025

3rd February

3rd March

Come and enjoy home-made cakes, tea, coffee and good company



At Occold Village Hall :

Badminton

Thursdays from 5pm - 9pm or check availability for other times through the website.

Hourly slots available

£10 per hour

Book your slot through di.noller@btinternet.com

or through the online booking system at:

occold.onesuffolk.net/services/village-hall

Bookings for under 18's must have adult supervision



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Come and play Table Tennis

Monday evenings 6 – 7.30pm

At the Village Hall

New members welcome

£3 per person

No booking required

**Contact Gill on 01378 678446 for
more information**



Head in the clouds.

Gill Chapman

While on my last flight to Australia to visit my family we started travelling through some turbulence. The plane was bumping around quite a bit when the seat belt light pinged on. The pilot announced that we should remain in our seats and put our seatbelts on. Having a window seat I opened the screen and looked out and was amazed by the sight I beheld - the most enormous cloud formation, billowing up from the ground surface, high up to the clear blue of the atmosphere spreading out into an anvil shaped, wispy mass easily above the 45000 feet we were flying at.



I was later to learn that this whole cloud formation was a cumulonimbus cloud with its typical anvil top, otherwise known as 'the King of the Clouds'.

What a cloud this turns out to be. It is a thunderstorm cloud characterised by its enormous height, stretching from its dark base low down, up to the top of the troposphere where it spreads out at the top into a shape resembling a blacksmith's anvil. It is a huge cloud that carries extreme and destructive weather with torrential rain, hailstorms, snowstorms, lightning and thunderstorms, gales, and can lead to tornadoes and hurricanes. It can

cause loss of life and massive damage to property. The energy contained within a cloud like this has been estimated to be the equivalent of ten Hiroshima sized bombs!

This cloud also creates serious hazards to aircraft! The hail generated by them can grow large enough to severely damage a plane's fuselage and the lightening can take out its electrics. The super-cooled water droplets in the clouds upper reaches can coat the wings with ice, fatally altering the aerodynamics, and the enormous turbulent air currents within its central tower can flip a plane over like a pancake. Definitely something to keep away from if you are flying!

John Davis was tracking my flight and sent an image showing that I was over Belgium. I later checked the weather that showed there were thunderstorms and heavy rain over the Brussels area at the time.

Clouds are classified through a Linnaean system of hierarchy based on their heights and appearance that was established in 1896. Most fall into 10 basic groups and number 9 on the list is the cumulonimbus - the tallest of all the types. This is where the cheerful phrase 'to be on cloud nine' comes from - being on the highest. However, it's not much fun being underneath or inside one of these formidable monsters despite their amazing appearance!

Ref: The Cloudspotter's Guide Gavin Pretor-Pinney





Join the...

Crafty Crafters

Every third Wednesday in the month in
Occold Village Hall, 1 - 3 pm

Wednesday 18th December,
15th January 2025, 19th February

Bring a craft activity to do or share or
just come to socialise and have a chat.

Tea, coffee & biscuits
available.

£2.50 per person



Redlingfield & Occold WI



The members of our group have had a busy few months.

For our September meeting we welcomed Michelle Attrill to talk to us about British Sign Language. Rather than teach us lots of signs she spoke to us about the different types of deafness and how deaf people experience many aspect of life differently, that to those of us who can hear, take for granted. It was a very interesting and informative talk.

In October Sarah-Jane Clarke from FCC Environment spoke about how her company works with MSDC to recycle all our household waste. We discovered that from March 2026 glass and food waste will be collected alongside the other existing waste collections. We learned a lot about what happens to our waste, how it is sorted, sold on, recycled or burned to provide energy. She was a really engaging and informative speaker who made an otherwise quite 'dry' subject entertaining and fun. We even had a quiz at the end!

Our November meeting was our AGM where we were able to socialise after the formal business was completed with cheese and biscuits and a sparkle of prosecco.

During October we hosted the WI Dove Group meeting. This is a group of 7 local groups that take it in turns to host, meeting twice a year in the Autumn and Spring. We were pleased to welcome around 50 ladies to Occold Village Hall and arranged a talk from the 3 Girls (1 climb) to share their experiences of climbing Mt Kilimanjaro on the 1st anniversary of the climb. Again we were treated to an inspirational presentation from Amanda, Nicky and Zoe.

Other activities have included 3 members attending a lino cutting workshop, following on from our visiting speaker in July, and a group of us attending a basket weaving workshop led by Jonathon, a Norfolk basket weaver. A very productive time was had.

In October we held our annual Harvest Supper where we cook a meal for members, partners and other member of the village community. This is always a popular event that is our main fundraiser for the year.

Towards the end of November some of us are planning a cinema trip to see 'Paddington in Peru'. We promise to behave and not rustle our sweet wrappers loudly or throw popcorn around!

In December we will be enjoying our Christmas meal celebrations. In January, our member Julia will be talking about her cycling trip through Europe and in February we have a talk from the local author Natalie Meg Evans.

We usually meet every month on the first Wednesday of the month in Occold Village Hall at 7.30pm. If you would like more information about our activities please contact Sara Hampson (President) on 01379 678868, or just come along to a meeting. We look forward to welcoming you.

Occold Book Club



Our September book was *The Dry*, the 2016 debut novel by Australian author Jane Harper. It is the first of a crime thriller trilogy featuring detective Aron Faulk, set in the Australian outback. Most of us thought it was a real page turner that we struggled to put down, scoring it an average of 9.5/10. We generally felt it was cleverly written with clues dotted throughout but the twists surprise us. It clearly evoked the heat and imagery of the Australian outback. A number of us have gone on to read her subsequent books that we have equally enjoyed.

In October *The Trial* by Rob Rinder was also popular, scoring 8.5/10 overall. A legal thriller, set in the Courtroom and Chambers it is the first of a series about an upcoming barrister. Unfortunately our discussion was rather short as we spent more time talking about Rinder and Rylan's relationship!

Unfortunately Roddy Doyle's *The Van* (November read) was not so popular and proved a disappointing read. Not all completed it but one member did find it quite funny and entertaining although her comment was 'a little too much book about not very much'! We weren't keen on the script-like writing style, the lack of story, the tone and use of bad language in the dialogue. A poor score of 3/10.

December is our Christmas outing where we will discuss the debut novel of one of our members, Nicola Knight - *The Night before Christmas*. We do not meet in January but read our own choices, having a 'show and tell' in our February meeting on the 4th Feb.

All are welcome, meeting at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month at The Beaky from February onwards.



ORAC Christmas Dinner

Saturday 7th December 2024

7.00 for 7.30pm Village Hall

Glass of Prosecco or Bucks Fizz on arrival

Starters

Prawn Cocktail with Marie-rose sauce, brown bread & butter

Melon & Parma Ham

Home-made Roast Butternut Squash Soup with a bread roll (vg)

Mains

Roast Turkey with all the traditional Christmas trimmings

Cheese & Walnut Roast with Stuffed Cabbage Leaves (v)

Vegan option available

All served with assorted seasonal vegetables

Desserts

Christmas pudding with cream or custard (vg)

Trio of Puddings – Bakewell Tart, Chocolate Brownie, Raspberry mousse

Tea or Coffee, Mini Mince Pie, After Eight mints to finish

£25 per person

Please contact Gill (01379678446), Sara (07841128913) or Lesley (07799886914) for tickets or email Gill at orac.treasurer@occold.com

Please book by 29th November & state your meal choices when booking.



MID SUFFOLK

Christmas and New Year Waste Collection Schedule 2024-25



Refuse (general rubbish) and recycling collections

Collections will take place as normal up to, and including, Tuesday 24 December 2024.

From Wednesday 25 December 2024 to Saturday 11 January 2025, refuse and recycling collections will be on an amended schedule

	Usual collection date	Amended collection date	Change
Refuse	Monday 23 December 2024	<i>No Change</i>	<i>None</i>
	Tuesday 24 December 2024	<i>No Change</i>	<i>None</i>
	Wednesday 25 December 2024	Friday 27 December 2024	2 days later
	Thursday 26 December 2024	Saturday 28 December 2024	2 days later
	Friday 27 December 2024	Monday 30 December 2024	3 days later
Recycling	Monday 30 December 2024	Tuesday 31 December 2024	1 day later
	Tuesday 31 December 2024	Thursday 2 January 2025	2 days later
	Wednesday 1 January 2025	Friday 3 January 2025	2 days later
	Thursday 2 January 2025	Saturday 4 January 2025	2 days later
	Friday 3 January 2025	Monday 6 January 2025	3 days later
Refuse	Monday 6 January 2025	Tuesday 7 January 2025	1 day later
	Tuesday 7 January 2025	Wednesday 8 January 2025	1 day later
	Wednesday 8 January 2025	Thursday 9 January 2025	1 day later
	Thursday 9 January 2025	Friday 10 January 2025	1 day later
	Friday 10 January 2025	Saturday 11 January 2025	1 day later

From Monday 13 January 2025, refuse and recycling collections return to the normal schedule.

Garden waste (brown bin) collections

Collections will take place as normal up to, and including, Friday 20 December 2024.

From Monday 23 December 2024 to Sunday 5 January 2025, there will be **no** garden waste collections.

From Monday 6 January 2025, garden waste collections return to the normal schedule.

Please put your bin out by 6.30am

Check for delays and report a missed collection

Online: www.midsuffolk.gov.uk

Phone: 0300 1234 000 (option 4)

Scan for more information



MID SUFFOLK

Refuse and Recycling Collection Schedule 2025



December 2024 Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	January 2025 Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	February 2025 Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	March 2025 Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
April 2025 Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	May 2025 Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	June 2025 Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	July 2025 Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
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- REFUSE** (general rubbish) collection week
- RECYCLING** collection week
- Refer to the MID SUFFOLK Christmas and New Year Waste Collection Schedule 2024-25
- Collections following a bank holiday will be one day later than normal for the rest of the week

Please put your bin out by 6.30am

Check for delays and report a missed collection

Online: www.midsuffolk.gov.uk

Phone: 0300 1234 000 (option 4)

Scan for more information



*The
problem*



*The
solution*

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- Established 1981 -

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www.clarity-water.co.uk

OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

The current list of Councillors and their responsibilities is:

Cllr Colin Cripps - Chair and Planning

Cllr Kevin Chittock - Vice Chair/Personnel/Planning

Cllr Stephen Hubner - Planning

Cllr Andrew Duggett - Personnel/SID

Cllr Heidi Stone - Personnel/Neighbourhood Plan lead

Cllr Tim Weller

Cllr Angela Hall

Cllr Roy St Pier

Clerk & Financial Officer: Awaiting appointment

For more information please contact occoldparishcouncil@gmail.com

Occold Flood Working Group. - update 10/11/2024

30/10/2024

The Occold emergency plan has been sent to the Babergh and Mid Suffolk emergency group for evaluation. The plan sets out the actions the individuals in the group need to try and take if we have another storm related flooding incident in the village. To support the deployment of warning signs to warn of road flooding, which was the case with Storm Babet, Councillors Weller and Duggett have gained an NRSWA SLG Operatives certificate which means all such activity would be covered by BMSC insurance. Alongside the emergency plan a Flood Card will be produced and issued to residents. The Flood Card will list emergency numbers and how to contact the Occold Flood Group members who may be able to offer some emergency short term help. Remember to look at the links here which will help you plan for your own situation and circumstances.

On Saturday morning, 8th November, members of the Flood working group helped by some village residents visited properties along Church Street to understand the direction the rainwater travels, it is not always obvious, and what condition the drainage pipes and ditches that run along the property boundaries were in. It was an interesting morning and essentially we discovered that pipes and ditches were in a good shape. There is a significant pinch point where the ditch in front of Cedars Rise empties into a drain culvert adjacent to Cedar Cottage, which was a property which suffered during Storm Babet.

All of this adds to our knowledge of what can be achieved during the next storm event.

<https://suffolkprepared.co.uk/get-prepared/prepare-yourself/> for further guidance and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan>

DOVE PLAYERS PRESENT

TREASURE ISLAND

THE PANTOMIME



JAN 10TH AND 11TH 7PM
SAT MATINEE 2PM

OCCOLD VILLAGE HALL

TICKETS ON SALE NOVEMBER 2024
WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/DOVE-PLAYERS

THIS AMATEUR PRODUCTION OF TREASURE ISLAND IS PRESENTED BY
ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS



Soup Lunch

Occold Village Hall (Last Friday of every Month)

12-1pm

Homemade Soup & Roll £5



All Welcome

Tea, Coffee & Cake also available

None in December, 24th January 2025 - St Michael's,

28th February – WI

A reminder that dogs are not allowed on the village field.

ORAC is concerned that despite notices clearly stating that dogs are not allowed on the playing field some people are still exercising their dogs in this area.

The field is a children's play area, a facility used daily by pupils from the village school, a place where families like to sit on the grass and relax, particularly in the summer and an area where children regularly play ball games etc.

Unfortunately dog faeces are being found regularly. They are toxic and unpleasant.

ORAC urges all dog owners to adhere to this rule so the playing field is a clean and safe area for everyone to enjoy. Please clean up after your dog wherever you exercise it. There are dog poo bins at various locations around the village.



Tim Bloomfield



Painter and Decorator

2 Ash Tree Close

Occold, Eye

IP23 7LD

01379 678638

Mobile 07708644135



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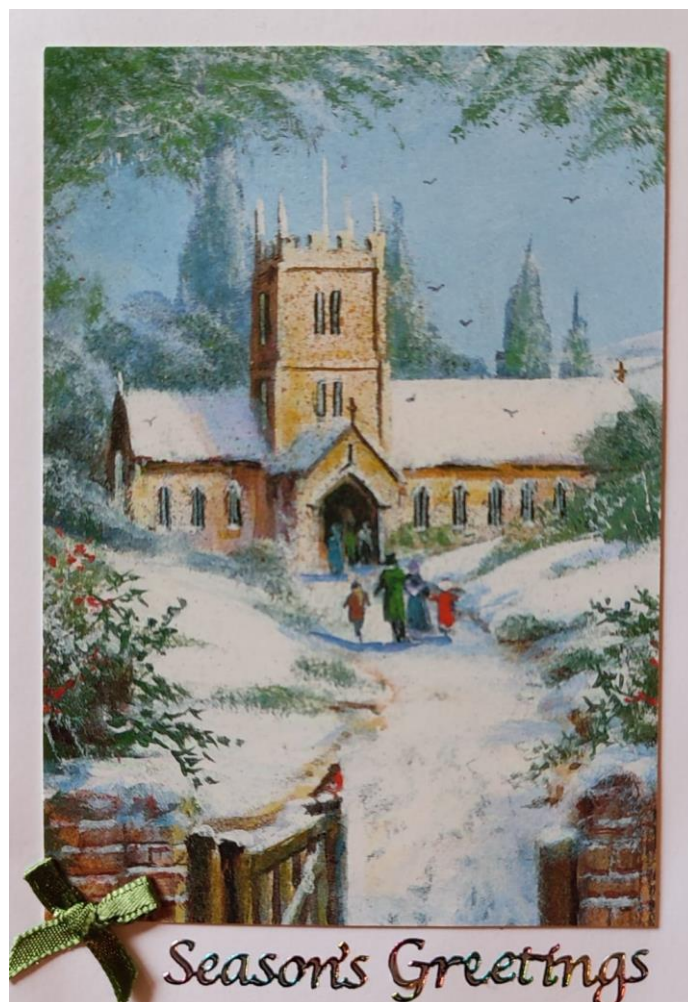
Winter time

Robin redbreast,
High upon a tree,
Perched on a fir branch,
Looking straight at me,
Snowfall is heavy now,
And robin all puffed out,
Winter light now fading,
More snow, no doubt.

Fir trees white,
With snow laden upon.
The Mistletoe is hanging,
Ivy thereon,
The Church roof glistening,
A cold winter's night,
Path heavy with snow,
Lit from lamplight.

As Morning breaks,
The service will begin,
Snowflakes falling softly,
Choristers entering in.
Robin on the gate,
Christmas tree lights twinkling.
Carols being sung,
Joyful choristers singing.

Judith Rivett



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SAM'S HOME SUPPORT

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LAI'D BY OUR HENS AT
CHURCH FARM,
OCCOLD

Mulled wine

<i>1/2 pint water</i>	<i>12 fl ozs orange juice</i>
<i>2 tablespoons caster sugar</i>	<i>6 cloves</i>
<i>2 cinnamon sticks</i>	<i>1 lemon thinly sliced</i>
<i>24 fl. oz red wine</i>	<i>4 fl. ozs brandy</i>

*Heat water, orange juice, sugar, spices and lemon slices together until just below boiling point. Add wine and gently reheat. Do not boil.
Strain into a jug. Stir in brandy and serve hot.*

Chocolate Roulade

5 eggs, separated
6 oz (150g) caster sugar
6 oz (150g) dark chocolate, melted with 2 table spoons hot water
Icing sugar for dusting

Filling

½ pint (285ml) double cream lightly whipped
2 oz (50g) hazelnuts, toasted and roughly chopped
2 tablespoons icing sugar
1 tablespoon brandy

To decorate

3 oz (75g) dark chocolate melted to make leaves
Red marzipan holly berries

Whisk egg yolks and sugar until thick and creamy

Fold in the chocolate

Fold in stiffly whisked egg whites

Carefully pour into 13x9in (33x2cm) Swiss roll tin lined with baking paper

Bake 350F, 180C, Gas4 for 15 mins until firm to touch

Cool slightly, cover with greaseproof and a damp tea towel. Cool for 3 hours or overnight in the fridge.

Loosen the roulade edges and turn out onto greaseproof lightly dusted with icing sugar.

Remove the lining paper

Make the filling by stirring all the ingredients together. Spread over the roulade and roll up gently like a Swiss roll. Don't worry if it cracks.

To serve sprinkle with more icing sugar if liked and decorate with chocolate holly leaves.

Can be frozen

Holly leaves : melt chocolate in a small bowl over simmering water. Dip in clean holly leaves or spread the chocolate over with a paint brush so the tops are coated to the edge. Allow to cool then carefully peel back each leaf from it's chocolate. Make plenty as some may break.

Enjoy, Elly

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QUOTE**

Enterprise Week 2024!

Monday To kick start our Enterprise Week we had visits from five adults who came and told us all about their job. Their careers ranged from geology to architecture! During the afternoon, we were lucky enough to watch a live cooking demonstration from a chef and we heard all about his career.



Tuesday On Tuesday we had a variety of local business owners come to visit us, as well as some more adults who told us about their exciting jobs. Some brought in exciting equipment for us to look at such as mosaics, computer parts and floristry tools!



Wednesday We spent the morning completing a variety of money related challenges in the Village Hall. We were learning about buying and selling, budgeting, giving change, and exploring what we *need* in our lives, compared to what we *want*.



Thursday We held our annual Farmers Market. We had so many stalls selling cakes, plants, decorations, bird houses, bracelets, key rings, apples, books and so much more! The children worked so hard making and selling. This year, we raised £450 which we are donating to Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust.



Friday To end the week, the whole school headed to Diss where we visited a variety of shops and businesses. We had tours of The Corn Hall and The Thatcher's Needle and spent time exploring the shops and market.



£5 Challenge

26 children from our school participated in a £5 business challenge over October Half Term. They filled in an application form to apply for their money and then were given a £5 note to take home and use to create a small business. The children's businesses included making bracelets, cakes, selling eggs and even cleaning cars! In total, the children made £450 profit which is amazing! The children will help us to choose how we spend the money

Earlier this year Ruth and I spent a week in Northumberland staying about eight miles from Seahouses which is roughly 330 miles by road from Occold. This area of northern England and its borders were fought over between England and Scotland hence the county boasts numerous castles and other places of interest many of which we explored.

The Hay Farm Heavy Horse Centre is located on the Ford and Etal Estate near Heatherslaw in an area of outstanding beauty. It is a working farm with a full breeding programme for the Clydesdale. It is the only Rare Breed Conservation Centre in the country dedicated to Heavy Horses. It is open Tuesday to Sunday from March until December and runs on a non profit basis with activities to raise funds which are ploughed back into running and development costs.



The museum within the location raises awareness for the importance of Heavy Horses in farming back in history until the introduction of mechanical power. Breeds included Clydesdale, Shire and Percheron. Back in our own county we have the Suffolk Punch which can be seen in number at our own county show.

There is a section dedicated to 'War Horse'. We were lucky to see the West End production some years back and Spielberg's film version has been back on TV for

Remembrance Day. The following information taken from the centre may be of interest as it depicts the situation between man and horse at that time.

Many men came from the inner cities and had never had any contact with animals so to be put in charge of a horse was a daunting task. This was quickly identified and training was given of how to look after the horse. Some of the horses came from totally rural areas so they were forced to adjust to unfamiliar environments. Over time the horrors of war for both man and horse developed a unique bond and trust between them.

Many Clydesdales were taken from farms within Northern England and Scotland. There is one story of a farm worker learning that his three horses were to be taken. On the evening three shots were heard, he just could not let his beloved animals go off to war and had shot all three. For committing such an act he was sent to prison where he sadly died.

Many soldiers of the First World War expressed immense gratitude for the horses and mules, they gave so much in return for so little and the men did as much as possible to protect them.

The Blue Cross Animal Charity contributed greatly to improving the welfare of horses serving in the war, and to raise funds used a painting by the artist Fortunio Matania of a striking illustration depicting the anguished love of a soldier for his dying horse. The painting known as 'Goodbye Old Man' hangs in the Board Room at Victoria Hospital, London.

Signaller Jim Crow, Royal Field Artillery summed it up: *'We knew what we were there for, them poor devils didn't did they'*.

VALUE OF HORSES

JULY 1914 saw the outbreak of war, within the first 12 days Special Purchases went out to buy draught animals and by the end of that period they had expended over £60,000, which included light draft and Heavy Horses.

By 1917 Britain had over a million horses and mules in service, but harsh conditions, especially during winter, resulted in heavy losses, particularly amongst the Clydesdale horses.

Over the course of the war, Britain lost over 400,000 horses, through battle, disease and exhaustion. As war progressed Britain was running out of horses and therefore imported them from Australia, Canada, USA and Argentina. The British Remount Service, in an effort to improve the supply of horses for potential military use, provided the services of high quality stallions to British farmers for breeding their blood names.

Horses of war were so highly valued that, by 1917 men understood that they were replaceable, whilst horses weren't... The value of the horse was so high that if a soldier's horse was killed or died he was required to cut off a head and bring it back to his commanding officer to prove that the two had not become separated.

The Clydesdales were employed to pull field guns; 6 to 12 horses were required to pull each gun. Casualties were high due to horses collapsing from exhaustion, drowning in shallow deep mud, too tired to lift their heads high enough to gain breath.

When war ended in November 1918 it was expected they would return home, safely and. Many of the animals were auctioned off locally, and tens of thousands were sold to the Belgian government for much a toll and for the devoted service they had given.

A SOLDIER'S KISS

Only a dying horse pulled off the gear, And slip the reins from his frothing jaws, Drag it aside there, leaving the road way clear. The battery thrummed on with scarce a pause, From by the shell-overs highway there it set With quivering limbs, as fast the life-side falls, Dark films are closing o'er the faithful eyes, That mutely plead for aid where none avail.

Overall the battery rolls, but one there speeds, Headless of comrades voice or hurrying shot, Back to the wounded friend who hourly bleeds Beside the stony highway where he fell.

Only a dying horse he swiftly kneels, Lifts the long head and hears the shivering sigh Kisses his friend, while down his cheek there steals Sweet only a tear, "Goodbye old man, Goodbye".

No honours wait him, medal, badge or star, Though scarce could wear a knicker dead unfail: He lies within his breast, more precious far Beyond the gift of kings, a heart of gold.

by Henry Chappell

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Gently went the farmer's plough horse off to feed the fields of war. No one knew where they were going No one knew what lay in store.

Muzzle soft and gently breathing, Faithful to the bitter end, Just another into battle, A loyal trusting soldier's friend.

Pulling guns towards the front line, Scared and sore through wire and mud. Honest heart and trusting nature, Witness to the guns and blood.

Soldier's tried to use compassion But they knew the price of pain. Onwards, fighting for our freedom, Was it really all in vain?

MAN & HORSE

Many men came from the inner cities and had never had any contact with animals, so to be put in charge of a horse had only to be a daunting task. This was quickly identified and training was given of how to look after the horse. Over time the horrors of war for both man and horse developed a unique bond and trust between them.

Many Clydesdales were taken from farms within Northern England and Scotland. There is one story of a farm worker learning that his three horses were to be taken. On the evening three shots were heard, he just could not let his beloved animals go off to war and had shot all three. For committing such an act he was sent to prison where he sadly died.

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Signaller Jim Crow, 110th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery summed it up: *"We knew what we were there for; them poor devils didn't, did they?"*

GOOD-BYE, OLD MAN

Good-bye, old man; we've fought our last together, You've struggled bravely, but you've got to die! Old man, it almost breaks my heart to name you, Without one other word, except "Good-bye".

Good-bye, old man; we've kept up well together, And always shared whatever's come our way, And up to now we've kept 'em well at bay.

Good-bye, old man; I know you're going to suffer, For there are good tears in your eyes, I wish you understood that, 'tis for Britain That every hero fights, and bleeds, and dies!

Good-bye, old man; you won't be here much longer, Yet we've got to go, old man, and go alone, We've always had our troubles both together And life won't seem the same when you are gone!

Good-bye, old man; I wish that you could answer, And tell me all your brown eyes try to say, You know, old man, I've seen a lot of suffering, But never felt just like I feel to-day.

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Mary was looking forward to the security of a marriage, of settling down to family life...with a first child.

Joseph was looking forward to married life too. Maybe he was leaving it a little late to continue the family line but he was convinced he had now found the right girl, a virgin. What could possibly go wrong?

The shepherds were looking forward to another night shift, on the freezing hills watching their flocks, keeping danger at bay.

The wise men were looking forward to a long journey, beguiled by a new star, they'd done their homework and knew exactly what this prefigured.

Herod was looking forward to more begrudging power-sharing with his Roman overlords.

The local trades people of Bethlehem were looking forward to welcoming customers, thanks to the Roman census in their town.

The Jews were looking for a Messiah, long promised for centuries past, in over 300 prophecies.

Yes, the first Christmas would bring joy, amazement, worship, pain, tragedy, life and death(the last thanks to Herod).

What about in 2024. What are you looking forward to this Christmas?

Tinsel, trimmings, turkey? Presents, people, parties? Crackers, customs, carols? Arguments, alcohol, acid-reflux?

Perhaps you feel you have very little to look forward to this Christmas?

The baby born to Mary, a virgin, was not of this world. He'd given up heaven, where he was worshipped by angels to become one of us, a human, with all the weakness that would entail. He worked as a carpenter until the age of 30 and then for 3 years proved who he was, through teaching and miracles, until he was shamelessly hung on a cross, treated like a criminal, though he'd done no crime.

He came to take away anxiety, pain, terror, heartbreak. He has done it for countless people down through the centuries and, he can do it for you too.

His offer still stands:

"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11 v 28-30.

Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men all found this out for themselves. You can too. We would love you to join us for one of our Christmas events:

Sunday 1st December, 2024 – 5.30pm Film Night in the Chapel – "Journey to Bethlehem."

Thursday 19th December, 2024 – 8.00pm Carols in the Beaconsfield Arms.

Sunday 22nd December, 2024 – 6.30pm Carol Service in the Village Hall with Castleton Brass Band.

And, in 2025, the legendary Darts Night, Saturday 18th January 7pm for 7.15pm - Village Hall.

Film Night on Sunday 1st December, 2024 – 5.30pm in the Chapel.

A refreshing comedy-musical take on the Nativity, released in cinemas last year.

The film lasts just under 1hr 40mins and is rated PG.

Your very welcome to join us. Hosted by Jubilee Baptist Church.





**JUBILEE
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

**Here are some of the
events we usually
run, we'd love to
have you come
along:**

Our website:

**www.jubileebaptistchurch.co.uk is
currently being updated**

**Please call Rob (01449 774609) Greg
01379 678198) or Andrew (01379
678160) for more details**

Weekly Sunday Service

10:45 AM / Village Hall or Chapel Hall

Youth Club

Alternate Fridays / Chapel Hall

Years 10 - 13 : 07:30 PM to 9.30 PM

Sunday Service also available via Whatsapp

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DECEMBER 8TH an afternoon of soul and Motown with Dominic Uppiah. Please prebook your table and time if wanting a roast. Music starting approx. 2.30pm.

DECEMBER 19TH (Thursday) Carols in the pub with Jubilee Baptist church. Come and enjoy a sing along and some good company from 8pm

Opening hours for Christmas and New Year

22nd last Sunday for roasts

23rd closed

24th Christmas Eve: 12midday until late. Santa is coming to the Beaky from 1pm. Please bring a small present clearly named beforehand and we will add a selection box. Please ring for more details.

We will be selling raffle tickets for our Christmas draw all week and will be doing the draw from 8pm

25th we are open 12 midday until 2pm

26th we are open 12 midday until 2pm

27th normal hours

28th normal hours

29th no food but open for drinks 12 midday until 4pm

30th closed

31st New Year's eve 12 midday until late. Come and enjoy a night of Karaoke to finish off the year.

Peter and Leigh would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and peaceful New Year

Telephone 01379 678833



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News from St Michael and All Angels

Let's start with a thank you - to those villagers who came and helped cut back undergrowth and overgrowth, clear ditches, and generally tidy up in the churchyard and the extension. We hope you will have noticed a difference. We will continue to manage the areas to promote wildlife and wild flowers but also try, with limited resources, to keep them looking cared for. We will have another working party morning in Spring so watch out for news of this!

More immediately Christmas will be just around the corner when you read this. We will hold the usual Carol Service at 6:30 pm on Christmas Eve and a Christmas morning service at 9:15. It would be great to see you at either or both. Mince pies and mulled wine will follow the carols.....

We do need to carry out some repairs to the exterior of the church so if anyone has long ladders, no fear of heights and some skill with repairing damaged mortar or realigning roof tiles we would be delighted to hear from you! We do still want to redecorate the interior of the church but our funds simply are not enough to do this, even using volunteers to carry out the lime washing. We rely on a small group of about 15 people to cover all the costs of keeping the church open and running, with the amount needed increasing every year (now around £15,000), so welcome any donations.

Following on from this we will be holding a Cheese & Wine Fund Raising event in the evening of Friday 28th February in the Church. Tickets will cost £10 and will be available from January. Please contact Stephen Hubner or Sara Hampson for tickets.

We take this opportunity of wishing all residents and visitors a Happy Christmas and that 2025 will bring you good times and joy.

Stephen Hubner (01379 678360) and Gill Richardson (01728 627916)
Churchwardens

Quiz Answers

Romantic Plants

1. Sweetheart Vines
2. Bleeding Hearts
3. Love Lies Bleeding
4. Heartsease
5. Love-in-a-Mist

Winter Flowers

1. Anemone Blanda
2. Cornus Mas
3. Strawberry Tree
4. Winter Sweet
5. Witch Hazel



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