

Renowned

THE OVINGTON ORACLE

MARCH 2005 **No. 1**

A NEW START

The new Village Hall Committee (see report page 2) has formed an editorial team?? to present a more traditional format and a new name to our long-standing Village newsletter.

The previous team, although short lived, have left us with a hard act to follow, the visual impact and variety of articles in the last six editions were produced to a particularly high standard.

The current aims of the new editors are to present in a simple and accurate style, what's going to happen in the Village, when, where and what for? Followed up by a brief report on all significant events.

To that end we would ask that all clubs, groups, and committees working within Ovington notify us well in advance when they are planning something, be it routine or spectacular, we guarantee to publicise your event.

Following on from previous editions, we would also welcome your stories, reminiscences, tales of woe, jokes, (suitable), letters to the editor, items for sale and importantly, reports on events where the editorial team may not have been present. A gentle hint there, all invites gratefully accepted on the understanding that we pay our way, OK.

MAJOR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2005

- 23RD APRIL. QUIZ & CHIPS EVENING
VILLAGE HALL 7.30pm. (this page)
- 4TH MAY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND
PARISH COUNCIL A.G.M. (see page 2)
- 11TH JUNE. VILLAGE SUMMER FETE
- 1ST OCTOBER. NORWICH BARBERSHOP
SINGERS AT St JOHNS PARISH
CHURCH. OVINGTON
- 3rd DECEMBER. CHRISTMAS BAZAAR.

How to contact your "Oracle" editorial combine!

Laura: Sunnyside Farm. The Street. 889151
Christine: Saham Road. 885848
Grace: Kestle. 31 The Street. 882246

EVENT DETAILS

**St Georges Day Quiz & Chips evening:-
Saturday 23rd April at 7.30p.m. In the Village Hall.**
(Apologies for wrong information printed in last months What's On, where the date was given as Tuesday 26th April.)

Teams of four are invited to compete in an evening of informal fun and rivalry, sustained by an excellent supper from the **Codfather**. Places will be limited, so ring early to book your team in. (With an order for Cod, Plaice or Chicken). Tickets available from Christine on **01953 885848** - £6 per head.
Highly recommended: - ed.

Village Summer Fete. 11th June 2005
The format for this year is still in the planning stage, but we hope that it will be as successful as last year, with your continued support.

VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

CHURCH NEWS.

The new footpath to the Church has now been completed and the P.C.C. thanks everyone who very kindly donated towards the cost. The Bishop of Lynn has agreed to dedicate the path at a service on **Sunday 13th March**. For timings see Pansy.

Lenten Tree: This year's project is the Mid-Norfolk Youth for Christ as they need to raise £10,000. This money is to help run the Café in Watton High Street, In the old brewery building which is aimed at the 14 – 21 year olds of any domination including non churchgoers. This is well used on a part time basis, and is part of a national project.

Annual meeting of the P.C.C. will be held on **3rd April** at 7.30pm at No 30 The Street.

Church Rota.

6th March (Mothering Sunday) service at 9am There will be posies and simnel cake. No Church flowers during Lent.

Lesson: Mrs. P. Westwood.

13th March Dedication of Footpath by The Bishop of Lynn. Parish Comm. Lessons Mr. R. Malton & Mrs. P. Westwood.

20th March Steward Mrs. P. Lovewell.

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Church Rota cont'd

25th March. Service for Good Friday at 2pm.

27th March. Service for Easter Sunday Parish Comm. At 9am.

Help needed. Greenery and flowers to decorate the Church would be greatly appreciated for Easter Sunday. The Church will be open from 10am onwards. Many Thanks from Pansy.

RAINFALL FOR JANUARY.

50.5 mm or 2." January 2005 (below average)

110.5mm or 4.5" for January 2004 and

95mm or 3.9" for January 1995

Thanks to Ted Bowman for these figures.

GARDENING CLUB.

The next talk is by Carol Chittock titled "Hedgehogs in the garden" on **Wednesday March 2nd at 7.45 pm**

The talk in April will be about Gooderstone Water Gardens given by Coral Hajas. This will be on: -

Wednesday April 6th at 7.45pm. All meetings in Village Hall unless stated otherwise.

BOWLS CLUB.

Meets in the Village Hall every **Monday at 1.45 pm.**

LADIES GROUP.

On **Tuesday 15th March at 7.45 pm** there will be a talk by **Neil Haverson** of the EDP and editor of "Lets Talk" magazine, entitled **The Newspaper Industry.**

The competition this month is to see who has the prettiest teaspoon.

The Ladies Group annual dinner will take place at the **Willow House** this year; This is on **Friday 1st April at 7.00pm.** Please ensure your name is down for your menu choices and taxi.

VILLAGE LOTTERY.

Last years receipts were £699.00. Less the licence fee of £17.50, leaving a total of £681.50 which was divided equally between The Village Hall funds and lottery winners.

February winners were-----wait for it.

£10 Betty Jones No 51

£10 Maureen Cable No 44

£7 Sylvia Ives No 54

£5 Rosina Scotton No 45

You can still join the Lottery, just throw your money at, or near, Grace. Location: - 31 The Street, Ovington.

PARISH COUNCIL.

The Parish Council meeting on 26th Feb was conducted under the calm and assured hand of Chris Lewis; he tells me that it was most pleasing to see more public interest on this occasion. The Parish accounts have been audited and our thanks must go to

John Goode for his accurate accounting.

The dog waste bin saga continues with, at the moment, neither N.C.C. nor B.D.C. wishing to accept responsibility for the thing. Fear not, your indomitable council will prevail.

The Clerk has agreed to pursue the possibility of grant funding for a feasibility study to determine whether the long awaited foot / cycle path to Watton is achievable. Michelle Prothero has agreed to represent the Parish Council on the Village Hall Management committee. The clerk, busy man, is to contact Carbrooke School for support by asking parents to drive carefully through Ovington when transporting their offspring to Carbrooke School.

Next Meeting 9th March 2005 7.30pm Village Hall.
All more than welcome.

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND PARISH COUNCIL
A. G. M.**

These will both take place on the **4th May 2005** in the **Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.** This provides all parishioners with the opportunity to meet the Parish Council and discuss any Village matters which may be of concern to them.

Please come along, it is quite painless and, who knows, there may be tea & biscuits.

VILLAGE HALL A.G.M.

The A.G.M was held in the Village Hall (where else) on Tuesday 1st Feb. A most encouraging turn out of folk attended, giving the evening a sense of purpose. The Chairman's report included mention of the recently restored and polished Hall floor, which everyone agreed had improved the ambience significantly. The accounts were the subject of much discussion, but their adoption was proposed by the treasurer and seconded by the secretary. They were duly accepted. The resignations of all committee members voted on last year were reluctantly accepted and a new committee was formed by using a deal of coercion quite usual in Village matters. The new committee therefore is as follows:-

Ian Lesley	Chairman. (Voted)
Marie Cave	Secretary & Bookings (Voted)
Grace Rumsby	Treasurer. (Gardening Club rep)
Laura Sproston	Vice Chairperson (Ladies Group rep)
Michelle Prothero	(Parish Council rep)
Karen Higgs	(Voted)
Christine Reilly	(Breckland Harmony rep)

Cont'd over

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The chairman thanked the previous committee for their splendid efforts over the past year, noting in particular the work of Chris Lewis in printing the What's On for some years. He also pointed out that there is still ample room on the committee for anyone with an interest in keeping the Village Hall up and running for the benefit of Ovington and it's Folk.

All volunteers welcomed with open arms, apply now.

WELCOME TO OVINGTON

We understand that there are new faces in the Village. May we take this opportunity to wish them a warm welcome and hope their time in Ovington will be a long, happy and prosperous one. Look forward to seeing you around.

BARGAIN BASEMENT (or, how low can you get)

You may advertise **right here** your "For Sale" items at no cost, but we would ask that electrical items have safety certificates and furnishings and upholstery are labelled as fire retardant. All negotiations to be between seller & buyer. Neither the editors or The Village Hall Man.Comm. Can, or will, accept any responsibility for incorrect information supplied.

LAURIE HOWE.

Laurie has recently retired from the Ovington Fuel Trust, where as a Trustee he served diligently for over thirty years. Many people in the Village, I'm sure, have reason to be grateful for all his efforts on their behalf. To mark the occasion his fellow trustees presented Laurie with a weeping willow tree and suitably worded card expressing their thanks for his valuable guidance. Laurie has been succeeded by John Ayris, who is welcomed as a trustee of this charitable organization.

We hope Laurie's reminiscences will re-appear shortly.

APPEAL FROM THE WAYLAND PARTNERSHIP:-

What's in a name?

Well in this case quite a lot! The Wayland Partnership Representatives are looking for inspiration from the community for the name for your new building. It is felt that as this building is for the benefit of the entire Wayland community, the community should have a say about what it is called.

The concept of the building has been known as the Wayland Centre for the last 7 years, but the partnership members are not sure if that is the best name for the building.

The building in question is the old Highways office next to the Police Station. It will house a wide variety of services, including offices for businesses to let, tourism and visitor centre, a presence office for agencies who don't have a permanent base in town but need to meet their customers, learning, training and conference space, and a one-stop-shop for information.

So how do you get all of this across in a succinct but imaginative way? It also needs to be a name that means something to local people but that will also stand out to visitors to the area. That is where we are all stumped, so we need your help! Names that have been suggested so far include the "Wayland Community & Enterprise Centre" and the "Dragonfly Centre". We also need your help with the names of the rooms within the building of which there are twelve in all, and they could be names that reflect the local natural environment, such as the Pingo Room or the Mere Room, or perhaps names of well-known historical local figures such as Walsingham and Crabbe, or maybe something else entirely? If you are feeling inspired, please send your ideas to the Wayland Partnership either by e-mail to suzanne@wayland.org.uk or drop them into our office at 76 High Street Watton by Friday 18th March. We look forward to receiving your ideas!

TALE PIECES

Geography Lesson:

Teacher:

Now class, who can show me on the map where North America is?

George:

It's here miss.

Teacher:

Well done George, now who can tell me who discovered America?

Class:

George miss !!!

Or

A three legged dogs walks into a saloon in the old wild west. He sidles up to the bar, looks around and says. " I'm lookin' for the man who shot my paw"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Right to Reply:-

[to editors comment, February What's On]

As one of the accused "censorious traditionalists", I feel it necessary to redress the balance and inform residents of the reasons for the Village Hall Committee's decision concerning publication of the What's On.

The original purpose of the What's On was to inform Villagers about events, past and impending, in order to engender interest and boost attendance. As the only resources for community events, the Church and Village Hall featured prominently and there was an understanding that the publication should be a vehicle for the promotion of **their** activities, not the personal interests of individuals. To this end advertising, either direct or by implication, formed no part of it.

The sub-committee of 3 to produce the What's On was formed early in 2004 but, due to working commitments, soon became 2 – one producing copy and editing contributions, the other managing the layout (and by all accounts doing an admirable job as there was only praise for the visual impact). Other help was offered, but rejected by the "editors".

There was in fact no plot hatched to oust anyone – the subject cropped up and caused heated discussion at **every** meeting. If the editor had managed to fit committee meetings into his busy schedule, he could have answered the many messages and letters of complaint personally and might not have felt victimized. Absence without apology or "too busy" just isn't good enough – modern life is hectic for all, whether working or retired.

It was only as a last resort that the decision to return to a more concise format was taken. Important dates and reports of several village events had been omitted, despite submission before deadlines, inaccuracies had crept in and there had been complaints of bias and sensationalist reporting. At least 20% of the Village never received the June issue which contained the all important fete details.

The Village Hall Committee felt that longer articles of more general interest were better suited to the Wayland News to be enjoyed by a much wider readership, leaving the What's On as purely an information sheet to publicise Village events.

Unlike the editor, I have no wish to remain anonymous.

(Signed) **Christine Reilly.**

Village Hall Committee representative

Well that's it for this edition; don't forget to get your contributions, letters, event details, etc. in for our April sample, by 19th March at the latest please.

(Provided we are not all in clink on charges of infringement of copyright ----- Don't ask)

Adverse comments to the editors on a postage stamp, favourable ones on A3 paper please, 4000 words minimum.

Thanks. **Laura, Grace and Christine.** (Girl power o.k.!)

APOLOGIES.

To the good people of Carbrooke for giving you only one small mention this month. No headlines, sorry.

STOP PRESS.

A message to those two people who seem to derive pleasure from wandering at will onto private properties in the early hours of the morning and snowballing windows. Don't forget the laws concerning intruders have been clarified and it is conceivable that you may well be met, **quite legally**, by more than just verbal admonishment if you persist in such juvenile activities.