

# THE OVINGTON ORACLE

APRIL 2005

No. 2

## THE RETURN OF THE ORACLES

Well hello again. We have escaped being pilloried, have missed being pelted with rotten eggs and, it would seem, not been given a prison sentence. (Yet. Ed.) What is more, comments about issue one have been favourable, so let's see if we can continue the trend.

### Pre-Fete meeting.

This will be held at Laura's pad, Sunnyside Farm, on 31st March at 10.30am. To discuss the format for the Grand Summer Fete on **June 11th**.

This a great opportunity to put forward your ideas and suggestions, also to put those good hearted volunteers (round pegs, one and all) into the correct circular orifices. These meetings are as much fun as the Fete itself (Laura's biccies are renowned) and there is no pressure or coercion involved at all. So please come along and be assured of a warm welcome.

### APRIL DIARY

1st April 7.00pm	Ladies Group Dinner
4th April 1.45pm	Bowls Club
4th April 7.30pm	Ov. P.C.C. A.G.M.
6th April 7.45pm	Gardening Club
11th April 1.45pm	Bowls Club
13th April 7.30pm	Parish Council meeting
18th April 1.45pm	Bowls Club
19th April 7.45pm	Ladies Group
21st April 8.00pm	Photo-scrapping
23rd April 7.30pm	Quiz 'n' Chips
25th April 1.45pm	Bowls Club

Apart from the Ladies Group Annual Dinner, which is at The Willow House Watton, and the P.C.C. A.G.M. at 30 The Street, all other events take place in the Village Hall.

### To contact The Oracles:

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Christine, Saham Road 885848  
Grace, Kestle 31 The Street 882246

## MAIN EVENTS for this month:-

**QUESTION:** When is St. Georges Day?  
**ANSWER;** Saturday 23rd April  
**QUESTION:** What's happening in the Village On that day?  
**ANSWER:** The Quiz 'n Chips Evening in The Village Hall.

If you knew the answers to the above, well done! You obviously read last months Oracle and can go top of the class.

Tickets are now available at £6 each from Ed or Christine – ring 885848 to book your team of 4 in a.s.a.p. because space is limited and the food has to be ordered in advance. The price covers a fish or chicken and chips supper with a soft drink or tea or coffee. If you require anything stronger to calm your nerves, or help you think, you can B.Y.O.B.

There will also be a raffle and a 'Heads & Tails' game to add to the fun. Proceeds from this event will go towards the renovation of the Village Hall toilets, which will benefit everyone who uses the hall. Teams should assemble around 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.

### Gardening Club

Another event, not to be missed, will be the Gardening Clubs talk by Coral Hoyas on **Gooderstone Water Gardens, 6th April at 7.45pm.**

### NEXT MONTHS ATTRACTIONS:-

The combined **Parish Meeting and Parish Council A.G.M.** is scheduled for the evening of **4th May starting at 7.30 pm.**

It is well known that everyone in the Village is entirely satisfied with the way the Parish Council conducts Ovingtons affairs, so why not pop along and express your appreciation at the Parish meeting. The Parish Council has assured the editors that all your comments, suggestions, criticisms or praise (?) will be given the Councils full attention.

The floor is yours, so to speak.

**Gardening Club Coffee Morning:**

This will take place at Pansy's, 30 The Street, in May. Times and Dates in next months Oracle.

**VILLAGE ACTIVITIES, REPORTS:-****St John the Evangelist Church, News.****Footpath:-**

After a very cold week the 13th March turned out to be a bright sunny morning when Ovington welcomed the Rt. Rev. Bishop of Lynn and Rev. Tony Pears to a Parish Communion. Afterwards the Bishop dedicated the new path. Within the next two or three weeks the daffodils alongside the path will be in bloom and the conservation area will begin to recover. The Churchwardens and P.C.C. thank everyone who has supported the project.

**Concert:-**

It has been decided the Breckland Harmony Concert, planned for the 30th of April, should be postponed until a later date. See the Oracle and Five Alive for further information.

**Church Rota for April.**

**3rd April** No service at Ovington  
**10th April** Parish Communion at 9am.  
 Lessons. Mr. C. Springford Mr. R. Hardy  
 Steward. Mr. R. Hardy  
 Flowers. Mrs. Westwood  
**17th April** Evensong at 6pm.  
 Lessons. Mrs. P. Westwood  
 Steward. Mrs. P. Westwood  
 Flowers. Mrs. R. Rednall  
**24th April** Parish Communion at 9am.  
 Lessons. Mrs. A. Johnson. Mr. D. Pritchard.  
 Steward. Mr. D. Pritchard.  
 Flowers. Mrs. P. Lovewell.

**March Lottery Winners**

No 32 £15 Alice Reilly  
 No 4 £15 Christine Reilly  
 No 15 £10 Dave Carr  
 No 20 £ 5 Tony Prothero

**Rainfall for February**

72.75mm or 2.8" (49.5mm of which was snow)  
 73.50mm or 2.9" February 2004  
 100mm or 3.9" February 1995  
 So we are about average. Thanks Ted.

**Parish Council Meeting.**

The 9th March gathering in the Village Hall was attended by four Councillors, the Parish Clerk, District Councillor and two members of the public.

After dealing with the minutes of the last meeting and matters arising there-from, the clerk read out the correspondence received since the last circulation.

Expenditure for the Clerks quarterly salary and rent for hire of Village Hall was approved and cheques duly signed.

There were no planning applications to consider. The proposed footpath along the Watton road was again discussed, but the financial implications of a feasibility study and subsequent burden on the Parish Funds was considered to be excessive. An agreement was made to ask the clerk to write again to N.C.C. Highways, to see where we stood on the list of footpath priorities.

It was agreed that a risk assessment be carried out by all councillors on 18th April.

The code of conduct review document was produced by the clerk, the consensus of opinion being that the document needed to be studied at length. The review doc. would be circulated to all councillors for them to make individual comments which will be summarized at a later date.

The next meeting will be on **13th April at 7.30pm** in the Village hall, all welcome to attend.

**Ladies Group**

It was unfortunate that Neil Haverson couldn't attend the Ladies Group meeting on 15th March, but his replacement, David Carter, made an excellent stand-in.

He kept everyone entertained with his stories and free gifts and we are very grateful for his attendance at short notice.

The speakers at the next meeting on **Tuesday 19th April** are the ladies from Grandma's Patch in Watton High Street. They will have an informal evening demonstrating the various crafts on offer in their shop. The competition for the evening is "an interesting cushion cover". A few members of the group have been unwell this last month and we send our best wishes to them for a speedy recovery.

### Idiots at large.

Further to our report in last months Oracle concerning the phantom snow-ballers, it is our sad duty to report another serious case of criminal stupidity.

Criminal, in that a car parked in The Street overnight had graffiti spray painted over it. Stupidity, because the sprayer was proud enough of their artistic ability that they actually signed their rather unique name on the car!!!. These actions are not funny; they are indeed criminal and should be reported as soon as possible to the police.

Having said that we will not raise your expectations of an immediate response, unless the crime is very serious, no instant flashing blue lights or hovering helicopters, **but**, your report will be logged and if it appears to our boys in blue that anti-social behaviour is apparent in our community, then it is possible we could be included in a more frequent patrol pattern. This could deter the criminal element from operating in Ovington. So, please report it.

### Church Tours.

The Wayland Partnership is again running guided tours of all the 18 Churches in the Wayland area. These take place once a month from April to October, covering three of the Churches on each tour, plus a talk or demonstration of historical or special interest at the end the day. Ovington is included in the October tour for this year.

We can heartily recommend any of these tours; they are far from being dry and boring, but take an in depth look at the history and in particular the **people's** involvement in the Church's growth over their 1000 year histories.

Details of these tours, which include a good lunch at a local hostelry, are available from:-  
The Wayland Partnership. 76. High Street.  
Watton. tel. 01953 883915.

However, if anyone is interested in **Ovington Church** in particular, and it is interesting believe us, private tours can be arranged, either for individuals, or a Village group or club.

**Please contact:-**

**Pansy at 30 the Street on 883978 or  
Rod at 31 The Street on 882246.**

### Village Hall Bookings.

Having a party?

Looking for a venue for a family celebration?

Want somewhere to practice Tai Chi?

Got a rock group / band that needs a room to jam in without the neighbours going beswick?

If the answer to any of the above is **Yes?**

Then we have just the place for you.

**Ovington Village hall.** Yes that pretty little place along Church Road, - you know, the one that looks like a school. It is available for hire at a very competitive rate, especially if you live in Ovington. To make a booking or get more details contact our esteemed booking clerk and secretary.

**Mrs. Marie Ana Cave** at Church Farm or give her a ring on **885019**.

### ALAS POOR YORICK by Mair Talbot.

There I was, on a freezing day, sitting in my study preparing for the following Sunday and quietly minding my own business when the phone rang. Mr. Rumsby was on the other end. "I don't want to worry you" he said "but I think I might have found human remains in your churchyard!"

Visions of murder and dastardly deeds went through my mind. When I arrived at the churchyard, sure enough, there was what looked rather like a human skull sitting under the hedge.

"Time to get advice" I thought as I dialed Wymondham Police H. Q.

Well to cut a long story short, "Yorick" was taken away a few days later by a Police Officer for the Pathologist to take a look at him. Yorick did the rounds, taking in Norfolk Archaeological Society on the way. He (or perhaps she) was from the **tenth century AD**, and must have come to the surface due to the natural movement of earth. The advice was to dig a hole and put the skull back with some suitable prayers.

It's amazing to think of thousand year old bones being found. The owner of that skull probably worshipped on the same site as we do, with the same faith in a God who sent his Son into the world. Styles of worship come and go but He never changes.

This event has set me thinking a lot about what we call "the communion of saints". The Christian Church is not just people all around the world today but all those who have gone before and all the people who will come after us, too. It's the only organization that doesn't lose members through death.

If ever we can help you, please be in touch.

Note:- "Yorick" was laid back to rest in a dignified manner, in keeping with his / her status as **Ovingtons oldest known resident**, on 14/3/2005  
R. I. P.

### Laurie's Reminiscences:

As the years pass it is a fact that elderly people can look back on those Wartime days and can vividly remember the sad times as well as the unusual events. For example I recall being detailed by the Station Master to fetch a "Sedan Chair" from the store. So another lad, Billy, and I set forth with this chair, at the double, to find an indignant old lady waiting on the platform to be carried in the chair to the Station entrance and loaded into a taxi. This, we were told, was transporting her to the best hotel in town. We were exhausted and quite relieved to be rid of her. She was festooned with expensive looking rings and jewellery and looked every inch a genteel, country lady, she certainly had the Station Master pandering to her every whim, and he even promised that we would assist her to a seat on the London express on her return. Billy boy and I were looking forward to a generous tip, which we had agreed to share,

Within a few minutes of the London express arriving the taxi returned with her ladyship, we carried her to the train and lifted her into her seat. She demanded a ladies only compartment, non smoker and insisted on sitting back to the engine. By the time we had fulfilled her every wish, the train was moving and we only just jumped off in time, eager to spend our reward, a whole sixpence each to spend on tea and wad.....(bun to the un-initiated. Ed.)

On leaving the buffet room we were confronted by a red faced Hotel manager who was most anxious to catch the old lady as she had apparently enjoyed the best meal on the menu, and the most expensive drinks at the bar but..... had failed to pay!

When the Station master returned and heard the tale he was speechless, especially when the manager explained that she did this quite often. The train had disappeared over the horizon by this time, even so we got a roasting..... We hadn't checked her ticket. But then, neither had the big White Chief .....

### Dog Fouling.

Despite there being two dog waste bins in the Village there are still dog walkers allowing their dogs to foul the footpaths and verges in Ovington. Not only is this illegal, but most unsocial and downright dangerous. Please, if your dog has an incontinence problem, clear up behind it and / or take it to the Vet. A watchful eye is being kept so if you are the culprit do not be surprised if you receive a visit from the dog warden, whose powers are, without question, draconian.

### Tale pieces.

A man runs home and bursts in yelling. "Pack your bags, sweetheart! I've just won the lottery, all six numbers." She says. "Oh wonderful! Should I pack for the beach or the big city?"

He replies " I don't care..... Just go"

Hear about the blonde who got an A. M. radio?

It took her a month to realize she could play it at night.

How many men does it take to change a toilet roll?

Nobody knows, it's never happened.

Thatshallot, as the gardener said to the cook.

Hope to see you all again soon, we'll be here if you'll be there.

Let's have your programmes of events and reports on activities past, stories, and news, whatever, for Oracle No.3 by 20th April please.

### STOP PRESS:

Why?

Don't argue, just stop the flipping press.

OK. You're the boss.

You had better believe it. Is it stopped yet?

Yeah ----- Madam!.

Good, now hear this:-

Stewart & Jill wish to announce the clearance of their blockage.

Bernard & Daphne are overjoyed.

The residents of The Street will now have to find an alternative venue for their public gatherings:

See y'all