

THE OWINGTON ORACLE

MAY 2005

No. 3

Welcome one and all to edition No 3, gosh doesn't time fly when you're having fun? The editorial team are still on speaking terms, albeit very briefly and mostly through clenched teeth, but they are speaking. Right, dear readers, what's in the pipeline for this month? Quite a lot actually, so let's get on with it.

GRAND SUMMER FETE.

Following a meeting held at Sunnyside Farm last month preparations for the Grand Summer Fete, to be held on **June 11th** are well in hand.

Hey! That's only six weeks away.

The timings have been set for the big opening at **3 p.m.** and for the next two hours there will be many stalls, competitions, exhibitions, raffle and refreshments for you to enjoy.

Just in case you are still hungry, after **5 p.m.** there will be a **barbeque** and time to sit and have a drink and chat with your friends and get to know your neighbours.

We hope you will be able to support us by donating items for the following stalls:-

Bric a Brac being run by Grace & Peggy, they will accept anything except electrical goods.

Tombola in the capable hands of Pansy, she is looking mainly for bottled products, ranging from Wine, squash, juices, shampoo, bubble bath, sauce etc. (Scotch ? ed)

Gifts / Toiletries Michelle or Sue, self explanatory really.

Raffle with Laura in charge, (loved the biccies) Looking for top class goodies.

Plants Joyce with the green fingers is sorting this one and will welcome anything that grows, (legally) on her stall.

A team of gatherers will tour the Village from **6.30 p.m. on Wednesday May 18th** to collect your donations. You may leave items on your doorstep if you wish, please just label them "Fete". Unfortunately we are unable to collect from the Dereham Road area; you may leave any donations at **No 31 The Street**.

Cakes and other comestibles (stop drooling woman) will be welcomed by Daphne on Friday 10th June or Saturday morning (11th). Thanks very much.

MAY DIARY

2nd	May 1.45pm	Bowls
4th	May 7.30pm	Parish Meeting
4th	May 8.30pm (Approx)	P.C. A.G.M.
5th	May 7am – 10pm	Gen & C.C. Elections
7th	May 11am – 4pm	Scrap booking day
9th	May 1.45pm	Bowls
11th	May 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
14th	May 10am – 12 noon	Gardening Club
16th	May 1.45pm	Bowls
17th	May 7.45pm	Ladies Group
18th	May 6.30pm	Fete Collection
19th	May 8pm	Photo-Scrapping
23rd	May 1.45pm	Bowls
30th	May 1.45	Bowls

With the exception of the Gardening Club Coffee morning on 14th May and the Collection for the Fete on 18th May, all listed activities take place in the Village Hall.

MAIN EVENTS FOR MAY.

Ovington Bowls Club meets in the Village Hall every Monday at 1.45pm. Do come along, even if you don't play its fun to watch and you may well get hooked. The social side of the afternoon is one of our attractions, not to mention the good exercise of playing Bowls.

Ovington Gardening Club is having its annual coffee morning at **No 30 The Street**, by kind invitation of Pansy. This takes place on **14th May from 10am till 12 noon**.

We will have Plant and Cake stalls, a Raffle and of course tea and / or coffee to sustain the inner person.

All are more than welcome to pop in and we would be grateful for your surplus plants and freshly baked cakes for our stalls, we also hope you will buy our wares.

A sign will be erected outside 30 The Street to guide you.

Next Months (June) event is a visit to Santon Downham to look over the renowned "Desert World" garden of Barry Gayton.

The Gardening clubs talk on Gooderstone's Water Gardens was well received. Carol's story of how the gardens evolved, through her Fathers devotion, foresight and downright hard work, to the delights available to all today was fascinating. Her colourful presentation of slides must surely make this a "must see" site.

LADIES GROUP

The next meeting of this most amiable group is on Tuesday, 17th May at 7.45pm when someone from Watton Sports Centre will give a talk on how to stay fit and healthy.

The competition for the evening will be: a fancy Tea Towel.

A full house of 28 members attended the annual dinner, this year held at The Willow House. As Pansy's daughter and her friend were staying with her, they came along as well and provided some extra, welcome, transport. Angela made a short welcoming speech and Daphne provided the now customary joke!! It was a very happy evening spent in good company. The food and wine were excellent too.

We would remind the Ladies in and around the Village that the meetings are open to all and we are always happy to welcome newcomers

PARISH MEETING & PARISH COUNCIL A.G.M.

This auspicious occasion is scheduled to take place in the Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm on **Wednesday 4th May**.

The Parish Council has invited a representative from all Village organisations to come along and tell us what they do and provide some ideas of their plans for the future. This is a great opportunity to find out what gives in dear old Ovington. You might be pleasantly surprised.

As mentioned last month it is a good opportunity also for you to make known your views on what's right, or wrong, with your community. Come and meet your Parish Council. Now that alone must beat watching "Corrie" any night of the week.

The Parish Meeting is followed by the Parish Council A.G.M. which, basically, is a review of the years work, a financial report, and the election of a Chairman and Vice Chairman for the coming year. Once again everyone is most welcome to stay and witness this, usually, brief meeting.

Report on P.C. meeting Wed April 13th.

The meeting was attended by five Councillors, the Parish Clerk and the District Councillor; there were no members of the public present, although apologies were given.

After dealing with the minutes and matters arising it was agreed that as certain items of correspondence were connected with Item 9 on the agenda "Flooding in the village" this item was brought forward. The chairman reported on the problems associated with the flooding of properties in the Street and the resolution of them by the County Highways Department. A letter from Mrs. Preece, thanking the P.C. for its help, was read out. Payment was approved for subscription renewals and for the engraved plaque to be affixed to the new Village sign in Church Road. There were no planning applications to consider. The clerk reported that the proposed footpath to Watton is, according to Norfolk Highways, low on their list of priorities and funding from alternative sources would incur a heavy financial burden on the P. C. as they would be expected to match fund any other grant.

The new National agreement on Clerks conditions of service was discussed at great length. It was agreed that we already met the criteria concerning rates of pay but that the P.C. would have to rewrite the terms of employment to comply with the requirements. Agreement was unanimous that the Clerks hours of working were, subject to a survey, acceptable, but the council felt that the timing of this ruling, coming after the annual budget and precept had been set, could impose an unexpected financial burden on the P. C. The date of the next meeting would be the **Parish Meeting and P. C. A.G.M. May 4th.**

GENERAL & COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Held in the Village Hall on **Thursday 5th May** The booths are open from 7am to 10pm, giving you all a chance to cast your votes. By this date we shall have been bombarded with manifesto's, swayed by promises of utopia, had our babies kissed and our dogs heads patted so it should be a piece of cake to select your chosen representative. Shouldn't it? Seriously though, do please vote

PHOTO SCRAPPING CLUB.

May 19th at 8pm is the regular meeting of the club. Once again the venue for the club is the Village Hall, but in most instances is held in the smaller committee room.

Michelle has been asked by Rebecca Bouchard (creative memories rep.) to arrange a Scrap booking day, open to everyone, to coincide with National Scrap booking Day. To this end she has booked the Village Hall for **Sat 7th May** from **11am to 4pm**. The cost will be £5.00 to include a light lunch and refreshments.

Rebecca will be on hand for handy pointers and a limited supply of stickers and papers. For further details of this and Photo-scraping contact **Michelle on 884544**.

CHURCH ROTA FOR MAY.

- 1st May** No service at Ovington
8th May Parish communion at 9am.
 Lessons. Mr. R. Malton Mrs. P. Westwood
 Stewards. Mrs. P. Westwood
 Flowers Mr. & Mrs. Malton
15th May Evensong at 6pm.
 Lessons. Mrs. P. Westwood.
 Stewards. Mrs. P. Lovewell
 Flowers. Mrs. P. Westwood
22nd May Parish communion at 9am
 Lessons. Mrs. A. Johnson Mr. D. Pritchard
 Stewards. Mr. D. Pritchard
 Flowers. Mrs. P. Lovewell
29th May Benifice service 10.30am at
 Carbrooke

Church News:

At the P.C.C.'s annual meeting, Mrs. Pansy Westwood and Mrs. Peggy Lovewell were re-elected as Churchwardens.

Very many thanks to everyone who placed a donation on the "Lenten Money Tree" The total came to £21.

An open air service with the Watton Silver Band in attendance will be held **17th July**. More details in next months Oracle.

APRIL LOTTERY WINNERS

£10	No 2	Michelle Prothero
£5	No 63	Bob Cave
£5	No 4	Christine Reilly

RAINFALL FIGURES FOR MARCH.

35mm or 1.37" (18mm of which was snow)	
37mm or 1.45"	2004
53mm or 2.08"	1995

Thanks again to Ted Bowman for these figures.

LAURIE'S REMINISCENCES**The Railways in Wartime.**

There are many events in life that one remembers particularly well, some bad, some good. Fortunately the mind blots out some of the bad memories.

One summer I was returning to work on the Station when two trains collided, one engine hauling trucks loaded with coal buried itself into the other. When I got there and began to assist the driver and fireman, there was hardly anything to be seen of one engine, it was hidden under a mountain of coal. However it wasn't too long before we got the crew out, and I was given orders to fetch the Station Master from a meeting at his club in town. I went off at the double and arriving at the lodge, banged on the door and waited. Eventually the monstrous doors were opened and I relayed my message, taking the opportunity to look through the doors whilst the Station Master was being summoned and my eyes nearly popped out of my head..... I had never seen so much food displayed. This was a mouth watering sight to me living, as we all were, on the sparse wartime rations. From that day forward I realized that the war did favour the fortunate few, especially more so later on when I knew that my Father was working on the infamous Burma railway in Siam (Thailand) for a cup of rice a day. Arriving back at the Station I was informed that the big steam crane was on its way from the New England loco yard and within a couple of hours the tracks were cleared allowing traffic to and from the North to resume. When I look back at the Railways of that time I am filled with admiration for the drivers, firemen and guards, who stayed at their posts, even during the height of the blitz. Where did we get such men? Had Hitler concentrated on railway tunnels and marshalling yards with his bombing, Britain may have been indeed brought to her knees. But that's another story! (More next month)

Idiots at Large ----- again.

This months complaint from the public concerns the late night, impromptu, firework display, conducted in the middle of The Street. Not only was the noise of the explosions an unwelcome interruption to a good nights sleep, but the resulting, hot, debris descending from some of the larger aerial displays was a hazard to life, limb and property.

This time, however, some of the "rocketeers" have been recognized and details have been passed to the authorities.

We repeat the advice given in earlier editions, **see it, fear it, don't like it, report it.**

And again-----

Stolen from outside No 6 The Street, on 23rd April, one stone lion. Previously employed as a gate guardian in company with his twin on the other gate post.

One could assume that there was a patriotic element in this theft, the lion signifying the good old English spirit and it being St Georges Day. The Lion will probably be homesick, having sat upon that gatepost for forty years, so if anyone knows of his whereabouts, or if they saw the strong men who took it away, then please inform The Police and / or us at the Oracle. Thank you.

St. Georges Day Quiz & Chips Evening.

Wow ! was that an evening to remember? Well yes actually, it most certainly was, very good company, excellent Fish & Chip supper and a thoroughly entertaining, educational even, quiz.

Won this year by The Breckland Harmony Group, by a very narrow margin we must say.

We really must congratulate and thank **Christine & Ed** for all their hard work and organizational skills in putting together such a great evenings entertainment. Which included the simple but ever popular "Heads & Tails" competition, and not forgetting the raffle and its plethora of stunning prizes.

Needless to say, there are always a group of dedicated volunteers beavering away in the background, tea and coffee makers, servers of the grub, scorers, etc. Thanks guys and girls, where would we be without you.

The evening raised £250 towards modernising the Village Hall toilets.

Tale Peeces:-

"If you look like your passport photo
You are too ill to travel." D. Thomas

"It is ill manners to silence a fool, and cruelty
to let him go on." B. Franklin

"One nice thing about egotists:
They don't talk about other people"
M. Pemberton.

"If you tell the truth, you don't have to
remember anything." Mark Twain

Lost and Found.

Found in Village Hall grounds on 24th April,
one outer jacket, showerproof, youth sized, in
good condition, full pockets.

If you are the owner and want it back, please
call at 31 The Street.

STOP THE PRESS!

Oh no! not that again

Have you done as I asked?

Yes boss.

Well put this in then, OK.

Right ho ----- bossy!

Stewart & Jill and Bernard & Daphne are
looking to altering their house names to reflect
the arid conditions they are now experiencing.
Suggestions on a Saharan theme are
welcomed.

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