

THE OVINGTON ORACLE

JUNE 2005

No. 4

BIG MONTH COMING UP OVINGTON, READ ON.

YOU JUST CAN'T MISS IT FOLKS

THE GRAND OVINGTON SUMMER FETE TO BE HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL GROUNDS ON SATURDAY JUNE 11th STARTING AT 3 pm FOLLOWED BY A BARBECUE FOR ALL AT 5 pm (BRING YOUR OWN DRINK)

WE HAVE LINED UP MANY NEW & TRADITIONAL ATTRACTIONS FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT

INCLUDING, CHILDREN'S TREASURE HUNT, MARTIAL ARTS DEMO'S, RAFFLE, TOMBOLA, CAKES & COOKIES, PLANTS, BRIC-A-BRAC, GIFT STALL, GAMES, COMPETITIONS, AND HEAPS MORE FUN ITEMS.

N.B.

Daphne, who is running the cake & cookies stall, asks that if you have any delicious & nutritious food items for her stall will you be so kind as deliver them to her on Friday 10th at 20 The Street, or Saturday morning at the Village Hall. This ensures they are in fresh condition for those connoisseurs of culinary art who will surely descend on that popular stall at opening time.

There are no admission or car parking charges.

See you there.

JUNE DIARY

1st June	Gardening Club+
6th June 1.45pm	Bowls Club
11th June 3pm	Village Fete
13th June 1.45pm	Bowls Club
16th June 8pm	Photo Scrapping
18th June 10am to 4pm	Open Garden+
19th June 10am to 4pm	Open Garden+
20th June 1.45pm	Bowls Club
21st June 7.45pm	Ladies Group
25th June 2.30 for 3pm	Ladies Group BBQ+
27th June 1.45	Bowls Club
29th June 7.30pm	Parish Council

All events other than those marked + are held in the Village Hall. Locations of the marked events are detailed elsewhere.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Bowls Club. Meets Every Monday in the Village Hall. New faces always welcome.

Gardening Club. The meeting on 1st June is being held at Barry Gayton's "Desert World" Garden at Santon Downham, twixt Thetford & Brandon. Barry is a well known broadcaster on matters concerning gardens; he is also Town gardener for Thetford Town Council. Further details available from Ed Reilly on 885848.

Open Gardens at "Chanticleer"

Maureen and Terry Rands will be opening their organic garden on Sat/Sun, 18/19th June from: 10am to 4pm.

The garden is listed in the RHS Garden Finder and has featured in a number of gardening magazines. As well as being able to ask any questions about organic gardening you will be able to see a range of livestock including goat, pig, sheep, geese, ducks and chickens. There will be wormery demonstrations throughout both days and the Norfolk Organic Group's bookstall will be present. Refreshments available and off street parking. Admission is £2 (children free) and all proceeds go to the HDRA, Quidenham Children's Hospice and the RNIB.

Please contact Terry Rands on 881194 if you have any queries re. the above.

Ladies Group.

The speaker for the Ladies group meeting on the 21st June at 7.45pm will be Mrs. Wendy Powles, who will be expounding the virtues of the amazing "Aloe Vera Plant". The competition for the evening will be just one flower from your garden.

Also in June we are planning a Barbeque on Saturday 25th. This will be held at "Alexander Grange" in Dereham Road, Watton, by kind permission of Wendy & Peter Alexander. You are requested to arrive between 2.30 & 3pm, naturally we hope all husbands / friends / toyboys / sugar daddies etc. will come along too.

Advance notice is also given here of the Pub Walk which will be on July 19th (weather permitting). This is always a very enjoyable evening with a pleasant countryside walk lasting about an hour. This gives us a good appetite for the pub-grub afterwards. Transport arrangements will be advised nearer the time.

If you are not a member of the Ladies Group, you may find one of the three foregoing, very different evenings, may be of interest to you. If you would like to come along we would be very pleased to see you, or you can phone our Chairperson, Angela on 882944 to find out more.

Photo Scrap Booking.

We meet this month on Thursday 16th June at 8pm in, guess where? Yes, the good old Village Hall. What we are going to do this month is to work on some of the ideas presented at the recent Scrap Booking day. One of which is how to decorate and present your family photos in an eye catching format. Come and see how it's done. Give Michelle a bell on 884544

Parish Council Meeting.

Contrary to the date published in last months Oracle, the Parish Clerk informs us that the next meeting of this august body will now take place on Wed 29th June in the committee room of the Village hall. Commencing at 7.30pm on the dot. All welcome.

CHURCH NEWS.

Join us on a trip to Italy!

Why not come to Assisi in Italy in Sept 2006? It's one of the loveliest towns in Umbria, a place of peace and spirituality and, the birthplace of Saint Francis.

The trip is all inclusive, with return flights, coach tours of the areas and buildings associated with the life of St. Francis as part of the package. Accommodation is half board allowing those with varying appetites to enjoy meals to suit at midday.

Departure is Monday 11th Sept 2006 return on Friday 15th Sept. Cost around £550 depending on numbers travelling.

Want to know more? Then come along to a taster evening on Friday 3rd June at St Mary's Church room Watton at 7.30pm. Watch a video, enjoy a glass of wine and ask your questions.

Meet the New Vicar.

The recently appointed vicar of Ashill and Saham Toney, the Rev'd Jane Atkins, warmly invites you to visit her at the rectory garden Ashill, on Saturday 25th June at 2.00pm.

Drop in and introduce yourself, arrive when you want and leave when you're ready. Bring the family. Please come, even if you do not attend church. Sign my visitor's book, leave your name and address if you would like me to contact you. If you cannot make it on the 25th then give me a ring on 01760 441191 and we can arrange to meet another time. (See report below)

Ovington Church Rota for June.

5th June	No service at Ovington
12th June 9am	Parish communion
Lessons	Mr. C. Springford Mr. R. Hardy
Stewards	Mr. Hardy
Flowers	Mrs. C. Springford
19th June 6pm	Evensong
Lesson	Mrs. P. Westwood
Steward	Mrs. P. Westwood
Flowers	Mrs. P. Westwood
26th June 9am	Parish Communion
Lessons	Mr. R. Malton Mrs. P. Westwood
Steward	Mrs. P. Westwood
Flowers	Mrs. P. Lovewell

New Vicar Licensed and Installed

There was joy in St Georges Church at Saham Toney on May 17th, when the Bishop of Norwich licensed Rev'd Jane Atkins as the new Priest in Charge of Ashill & Saham Toney. Bells rang out, St Mary's (Watton) choir helped raise the roof and the tables groaned under the feast provided by the congregation at Saham.

Jane has been curate in the Fenn Lanes group of parishes in the Hinckley area of Leicestershire for the past three years. Now aged 53 Jane has two grown children and two grandchildren.

During the long vacancy since Mike Howes' retirement, services have been conducted by clergy from Watton and even farther a-field. Jane's arrival will not alter this involvement as it is proposed that Ashill and Saham Toney become part of a team ministry with Watton, Carbrooke and Ovington. Jane will be attending the service in Ovington Church on Sunday June 26th.

LAST MONTH'S HAPPENINGS.

Parish meeting and P. C. AGM.

This gathering of the clans took place as advertised on Wed. 4th May in the main function room of the village hall.

Present were the entire Parish Council, representatives of most of the Village groups and organisations, with a most welcome number of Ovington residents.

The chairman opened the meeting with a warm welcome to all present and promptly dealt with the formalities of the minutes of last years meeting and matters arising, of which there were none.

Representatives of the various Village organisations were then invited to give a brief report on their activities over the past year and outline their objectives for the coming year. All groups reported that their membership had increased or at least remained stable.

Their activities gave an indication of the varied interests, abilities and enthusiasm of a large proportion of the population, in what is a relatively small village, thus giving the lie to a recent report that "Nothing happens in Ovington"

The village hall is still the hub of most village functions and its chairman thanked Ovington for its continuing support.

The Fuel Trust reported that it continues to update the properties which it manages, despite limited funding.

Parish councillors were pleased that their budgeting for the year 2005 / 6 had resulted in a reduction in Ovington's portion of the council tax. This was confirmed by the District Councillor who reported that Breckland had one of the lowest council tax demands in England.

At this point the meeting was opened to allow members of the public to give vent to their innermost feelings about matters in Ovington. Concern was expressed about the reports of various nefarious activities in the village, as reported in the Ovington Oracle. The Chairman agreed that the reports did make the Village seem less a paradise than he would have liked, but emphasized that all such unpleasant and criminal behaviour must be reported to the police. Hopefully allowing them to build up a picture of potential trouble spots and subsequently bring some preventative measures into force.

A suggestion raised by a member of the public was for the authorities to introduce a statute to prevent the use of lawnmowers operating before midday on Sundays. It was the Chairman's thought that on the rare occasions this caused a problem, then it would be better to establish a dialogue with the offender and attempt to reach an amicable compromise.

Several people raised objections to the publication in a neighbouring Village magazine, of an article about Ovington, which was not considered an accurate depiction of life in the Village and was thought insulting to certain Ladies of Ovington. The author of the article apologized for the resident's inability to share or appreciate his brand of humour, but stated that he would not present any more articles for publication in that particular journal.

Refreshments were then served.

The Parish Council AGM which followed was relatively painless. Despite protestations, the current Chairman was re-elected for a further term, as was the vice Chairman.

These stalwarts being:

Rod Rumsby (Chair)

Chris Lewis (Vice Chair)

The clerk then presented the Parish Council's financial status to the Council who agreed its content.

After washing up we all went home for a stiff drink, or two.

APRIL RAINFALL

Courtesy Ted Bowman.

2005	34.5mm or 1½ inches
2004	43mm or 1¾ inches
1995	9mm or ¾ inches

This looks about average for the month of April.

APRIL LOTTERY WINNERS

£10	No 52	David Wickham
£5	No 42	Les Mortimer
£5	No 48	Barry Sutton

Heard this one?

Ninety-eight percent of the adults in this country are decent, hardworking, honest Englishmen. It's the other lousy two percent that get all the publicity. But then we elect them!

Or this

The only fool bigger than the person who knows it all is the person who argues with him.

Then again

Did you know an anagram of "Eleven plus two" is "Twelve plus one" ? or "Evils agent" is an anagram of "Evangelist" ?

Railways in wartime by Laurie Howe.

During the war nearly all troops were moved by train, whether they were going on leave or moving between postings. Road travel was severely restricted there being no long distance coaches, only local bus services. The A1 was at that time reckoned to be the main arterial highway in the country and was probably suitable for the lone serviceman who was desperately hitch-hiking home for a spell of well earned time with his family. The rail network however covered the whole country with branch lines serving even quite remote areas.

The government at the time paid the railways 10/- (50p) for every serviceman travelling on official duty, there were always those though, who tried to dodge paying their way, despite fares being fairly reasonable. So the rail companies employed ticket collectors and inspectors checking everyone who travelled. Their actions often ended in the offender making a court appearance.

Our station was tasked with checking every passenger on a Sunday night when there would be lots of servicemen returning to the many barracks and RAF stations around.

A problem arose when we were told that the last train from London would arrive at the same time as one from the north. Our chief porter, an elderly, courteous, gentleman, always correct, steeped in the traditions and procedures of the railway, issued us with instructions to stand firm and stop all passengers / troops and check they had tickets or valid travel warrants. This was obviously going to cause great delays, but doing as we were told we faced the surging mass of people, hearing our chief urging us to be firm over the noise of the crowd. The only snag was the men were intent on getting through us like a hippo charging, there was no way of stopping them, it was like a rugby scrum. We decided to err on the side of self preservation and stepped back into a doorway, our old porter was not so fortunate and he was lifted like a rag doll off the platform and deposited in the bottom of a Royal Mail basket. The troops who led the rush belonged to 16th Airborne Regiment and were a law unto themselves. As soon as they had passed through we lifted the old boy out of the basket and dusted him down as he adjusted his spec's and straightened his cap. We thought we would be in line for a good choking off, but all he said was that he thought the lads were keen to get back to their military duties before midnight, such was his way of thinking. Later we knew the real truth which was the local pub, the "Station Gates", was closing in half an hour hence their rush. Just as well that the old porter was a leading member of the temperance society and gave that pub a wide berth.

It was just a week or so later that those troops were dropped at Arnham, and we all know that was a bridge too far!

I met one of those lads two years on and he still had a bullet lodged in his back, but that's another story-----.

A BIG THANK YOU.

The fete organizers send their grateful thanks to all those lovely people who gave so generously, donating a magnificent array of goodies for our fete during the evening collection on the 18th May. We also offer our thanks to those stalwarts, the team of gatherers. Thanks guys and gals.

DEADLINES.

Please may we have your articles, reports, future event notifications, stories, letters, jokes, for next months oracle by the **16th June** please.

MORE COMMON SENSE – ATIONS ?

A lady was awarded £412,954 after breaking her leg tripping over a toddler who was running around inside a furniture store. The stores owners were surprised at the verdict. The toddler was the woman's son!!

A man won £39,177 and medical expenses when his neighbour ran over his hand with a Honda Accord. The man didn't realize there was someone at the wheel of the car whilst he was trying to steal its hubcaps!.

STOP THE PRESS.

Groan-----not again. What now?

Have you mentioned the FETE?

Yes, how could we forget that?

It is not unknown !

We'll meet again, I know where, you know when.

To contact the editors of the Oracle:

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