

# THE OVINGTON ORACLE

**AUGUST 2005**

**No. 6**

**Welcome**, dear readers, to No 6 in this series of convoluted compilations. Recording for posterity Ovington's innermost secrets. Again we dare to expose the machinations of those nefarious organisations, tasked with keeping this community of ours in a state of vibrancy unknown, unaccepted even, in adjacent areas.

First let us give you the summary of expected events within Ovington for the month of August in the traditional diary format, detailed information on these happenings are to be found on this and following pages.

## AUGUST DIARY.

1st August	1.45pm	Bowls Club
6/7th August	10am 'til 4pm	Open Gardens+
8th August	1.45pm	Bowls Club
15th August	1.45pm	Bowls Club
16th August	7.00pm	Ladies Group+
18th August	8.00pm	Photo Scrap booking
22nd August	1.45pm	Bowls Club
29th August	1.45pm	Bowls Club

All events in Village Hall except those annotated +

## REPORTS ON JUNE & JULY'S EVENTS.

### Chanticleer, Open Gardens.

The organic garden at Chanticleer opened for the 7th year running on 18 / 19th June and received visitors from Norfolk and beyond. Visitors have travelled from all over the country in the past and a lady from Devon even arranged her holiday to coincide with the open garden for a repeat visit with her family. Opening of this RHS Garden Finder listed garden provided the opportunity to ask questions about the organic approach. Jan Hunt demonstrated her homemade wormery and can usually solve any problems you may be having, Isobel Havercroft was there with the Norfolk Organic Group's bookstall where you can peruse and buy from as wide a range of organic gardening books as you will find anywhere. After a walk through the garden, including the wildlife and woodland garden,

which provided welcome shade from the heat, visitors took advantage of the homemade refreshments provided by Maureen and her team of helpers.

If you missed the opening in June all the above will be repeated on the weekend of the **6 & 7th August from 10am 'til 4pm**, so go along and see this Ovington organic Garden, which has featured in a number of gardening magazines. All proceeds go to charity. Any queries to Terry Rands at 01953 881194.

### Ladies Group Barbeque.

One of the main fund raisers for 2005 was the barbeque held at Wendy & Peter Alexander's on Saturday 25th June. Unfortunately the weather was rather chilly, but happily remained dry. BUT!! WHERE WAS EVERYONE????? Wendy & Peter went to so much trouble to make the event very special. Marquees were erected; fridge s positioned strategically for drinks etc and music played enticingly in the background. The committee arrived with a mouthwatering selection of salads, fresh bread straight from the baker's ovens, and premium quality burgers and prime sausages from the butchers. The desserts were truly tempting too. 2.30pm arrived and we waited-----and waited-----. However eventually 15 of us enjoyed the afternoon. (Most of those in attendance were the committee and their husbands!!!!!!)

There was some concern that the afternoon would be a financial disaster, but glad to say we did make a very small profit. Wendy & Peter being most gracious about the work that had gone into the preparation and the disappointing turnout.

Those that did attend had a great time in the beautiful surroundings of Wendy & Peter's garden, and the committee thanks them so much for their splendid hospitality and is grateful for the small profit made.

### Annual Pub Walk, 19th July:

The weather was kind to us, bright but not too hot, and we had a very pleasant walk from the Blue Lion pub in North Pickenham to St. Mary's

Church, Houghton on the Hill, and then back again through the fields.

The old Church was looking its best, surrounded by its well stocked country garden, lovingly cared for by the Church's benefactor, Mr. Bob Davey. On the return journey we passed a group of ladies from the local W. I. I don't think the field had ever in its life had so many people wandering through it at any one time! After the walk 35 members and husbands enjoyed an excellent meal in the Blue Lion. A lovely evening.

Our next meeting will be a visit to Maureen & Terry Rands' organic gardens at Chanticleer, Dereham Road at 7.00pm on 16th August. Terry informs me that he will be happy to entertain us whatever the weather, so come prepared. Maureen will provide tea, coffee or soft drinks and biscuits after the tour. There is no charge for the visit but a donation of £1 per head is recommended to be passed to either Quidenham Children's Hospice or the R.N.I.B. Cars should be parked in one of the fields with an entrance off the Dereham Road, this will be signposted. Please do not park on the road. Please telephone me on 882772 if you need a lift on the evening.

As always, guests and new members are always welcome at our regular meetings in the Village Hall on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. We look forward to seeing you then.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 29TH JUNE

The meeting was conducted under the competent baton of Michelle Prothero, who was voted chairperson in the absence of the Chair & vice Chair who were delayed due to circumstances beyond their control.

Following the usual formalities appertaining to last meetings minutes, agreement was made to pay the annual insurance premium at a cost of £157.50.

A consultation letter received from BT was read out and it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would argue in favour of retaining the village payphone, clerk to write in reply to this document with the PC's decision. The clerk reported on letters received re speeding through Ovington and had returned requisite pro-forma to Thetford.

The clerk presented the accounts for 2004/5. Adoption was agreed.

Cheques were authorized and signed in respect of NCAPTC, insurance, and clerk's salary which has risen to a higher scale. Planning applications for Willow Cottage extensions had been returned with no objections.

Breckland Council has informed the PC that an application regarding a caravan off Redhill Lane had not been approved by BC. The impending closure of Dereham road on either side of Ovington in July was discussed and it was agreed that a map of recommended diversions and weight restrictions be displayed on the Village notice board.

A risk assessment had been carried out by councillors and clerk on 18/4/05. As a result it was agreed that the wire mesh fence bordering the south side of the children's play area was in a parlous condition and should be removed, Date of next meeting 7th September at 7.30pm in Village Hall committee room. All welcome.

## JUNE LOTTERY WINNERS.

£15	No 8	Maureen Simmons
£15	No 46	Penni McKay
£10	No 1	Maureen Rands
£5	No 33	Jane Lambert

## JULY LOTTERY WINNERS

£10	No 31	Peggy Lovewell
£ 5	No 36	Terry Rands
£ 5	No 24	Maureen Russell

## JUNE RAINFALL (Yes it did rain)

June 2005	63mm or	2.5"
June 2004	49.5mm or	2.0"
June 1995	33.5mm or	1.3"

Thanks again to Ted for these figures

## CHURCH NEWS

What could be better than a beautifully warm and sunny afternoon in July when Ovington had their open air Songs of Praise, with Watton Silver Band?

Canon Mair conducted the service and the hymns were chosen by the Ovington Ladies Group.

Cream teas were available after the service. Very many thanks to everyone who supported us.

### Churches Cycle Ride

Sponsor forms for this annual event on **September 10th** are now available from either Pansy or Peggy

### Barber Shop Singers.

Tickets for the concert by this popular group will be available next month, so please make a note in your diary to remind you of this concert

----- **1st October** -----

This weekend will also see Ovington celebrating its Harvest Festival.

### Church Rota for August

<b>7th August</b>		No service at Ovington (Wedding Flowers)
<b>14th August</b>	<b>9am</b>	Parish Communion
		Lessons Mrs. P. Westwood
		Steward Mrs. P. Westwood
		Flowers Mrs. P. Westwood
<b>21st August</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Evensong
		Lessons Mrs. P. Westwood
		Steward Mrs. P. Lovewell
		Flowers Mrs. P. Lovewell
<b>28th August</b>	<b>9am</b>	Parish Communion
		Lessons Mr. C. Springford, Mr. R. Malton
		Steward Mrs. P. Lovewell
		Flowers Mrs. R. Rednall

### Food for thought

Ham & Eggs-----A days work for the chicken, a life time's commitment for the pig.

### GARDENING CLUB

**Please note:** there will be no Gardening club meeting in August. The next meeting will in the Village Hall on **7th September at 7.30pm.**

This will be a talk by John Davies of Clermont House on "Planting to encourage wildlife and birds into today's small gardens"

### BOWLS CLUB

Continues to meet in the Hall every Monday come rain or shine at 1.45pm. All welcome.

### WAYLAND PARTNERSHIP

#### Volunteer of the Year Awards:

The W.P. are sponsoring awards for what you, the public, consider to be the best Individual or group of volunteers in the Wayland area, who you think have contributed significantly in making the Wayland area a great place to live work & play.

People in the area have a proud history of getting things done for their Town or Village. The Queens hall, the Watton Sports Centre, the Millennium Greens in Carbrooke and Thompson are good examples of what volunteers have achieved.

So if you feel that there is someone out there who has done voluntary work for the benefit of the community as a whole and deserves recognition, then contact Suzanne at the Wayland partnership offices 76 High Street. Watton. Or ring her on 01953 883915 for more details on how to nominate your choice of Volunteer of the Year.

### VILLAGE HALL.

Don't forget to book the hall for all your functions, celebrations, knees up's and general bashes.

### Nota Bene:-

(Hey! I didn't know you could speak Japanese, Laura?)

(I can't, so shut up and listen fool, this is important)

There have been some recent changes to the hierarchy on the Village Hall Management Committee, the most important being:-

**Mrs. Michelle Prothero ----- Bookings Clerk**  
**To book the hall Please contact Michelle on 01953 884544**

### CONGRATULATIONS

To **Kelly & Sam** on their forthcoming marriage. All Ovington folk, we are sure, will join us in wishing you both all best wishes for a long and happy life together.

### Life's Like That.

A restaurant was ordered to pay Ms. Amber Carson £60108.00 after she slipped on a spilled soft drink and fell, breaking her coccyx (tail bone). The beverage was on the floor because Ms. Carson had thrown it at her boyfriend 30 seconds earlier during an argument.

No one is listening until you make a mistake.

Never test the depth of the water with both feet.

## LAURIE'S WAR

It seemed to most people in 1944 after the 'D Day landings, that the long war was entering its final phase, some even said it would be over by Christmas. Mr Hitler, however still had a few tricks up his sleeve. The one that had the most disruptive effect on the home front were of course the V1's or doodlebugs, they caused horrendous damage and casualties until the countries defences were reorganised and the RAF devised some radical new techniques to deal with this menace. The trouble really began though, with the introduction by the Nazi's of their V2 rocket which arrive, unlike the V1, with no visual or audible warning, proving to be beyond the allies' capabilities to detect and destroy this advanced weapon.

Most of these were of course aimed at London and the provinces, but not all made it and many landed in our part of the country. Such was the security in those days however that there were rarely any explanation for these large and mysterious explosions.

Britain was saved from extinction in this case, fortunately, by the rapid advance of the troops on the continent, enabling them to over run the launch sites of these weapons.

In Europe, Hitler made a desperate attempt to overthrow allied forces by springing a surprise attack on a lightly defended area in the Ardennes, which came very close to succeeding, it became known as the Battle of the Bulge. British fighter bomber aircraft and American ground forces successfully contained this advance however. Not everything was rosy though, the weather during the winter of 1944 was the worst in living memory and the railways, by now on their last legs, were hard put to transport essential supplies to the beleaguered populace, as well as moving essential war materials to the ports, for onward transmission to the allied forces in Europe. Supplies of coal and coke for domestic heating were again restricted, the government issued directives recommending ways for the people to manage on ever decreasing rations of foodstuffs, clothing and means of heating homes. People queued for hours when rumour spread that a local supplier had in stock some sadly missed foodstuffs, meagre supplies of coupons grasped in their hands.

I recall dispatching on a train to London, to a really posh hotel, a consignment of rooks and squirrels in sacks. I often wondered if the rich folk really knew what they were eating, or how the dishes were presented on the menus. At least we all shared in the suffering caused by food shortages. Well, that is not quite correct, there were of course those individuals who seemed to profit from any situation, 'spivs' was the name given to the unsavoury characters that always seemed to obtain the unobtainable, selling their ill-gotten gains at a

considerable profit. I was called upon at one time to guard one of these clients. who not only had been A.W.O.L for four years, but had managed to run three factories in London during this time. He had been caught and while awaiting trial by court martial still managed to hold meetings with his accountants, solicitors etc. He claimed that he had a dicky heart, but was still able to sign cheques and conduct his business from a hospital bed.

He was eventually given a complete discharge because of his 'health' problems and soon resumed his occupation, a miracle recovery.

I often wondered at the outcome, if Hitler had decided to invade Britain instead of Russia.

As a cadet attending infantry training at Attlebridge at the time, I wondered whether the Home Guard, who would have been required to prop up the regular troops, could have withstood a Panzer attack, a blessing perhaps that we were not put to that test.

Our troops, the Para regiment were, by early 1945, approaching Belson, they were hardened by years of conflict, but freely admitted to being totally horrified at the sights that met their eyes at this infamous prison.

I wonder if we would be so shocked today at those horrific images. being used to seeing far worse scenes on our television.

As the war in Europe drew inexorably to its close, many of our troops began to consider the prospect of continuing the fight in the far east, as the Japanese were still proving to be a thorn in the side of the 14th army in Burma and they needed all the support they could get to defeat these fanatical fighters. They all hoped however that a bit of home leave would be forthcoming before any move to that far distant theatre of war became a certainty. There was no knowledge then, of course, of the terrible weapon that would save many of our gallant boys from slaughter, but time would tell.

Laurie Howe.

## THE ORACLE

Don't forget that we welcome **your** input to this monthly epistle. Letters, Articles, Stories, Jokes. Advance notice of important events, all will be considered. Go on – put pen to paper, to us please, by the **19th August** latest

## To contact us:-

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