

THE OVINGTON ORACLE

SEPTEMBER 2005

No. 7

WELCOME to our seventh heaven. Well it might be heaven for you but at times it would seem to us to resemble t'other place, knee deep as we are in articles, letters, stories, reports. Our technology, supposedly designed to facilitate and speed up publishing, turns out not all it's cracked up to be either.

But still, the show must go on.

There would appear to be an element of concern from you our dear readers this month, not at us we hasten to add, but certain actions of a few of our residents are penetrating the nasal organs of others, so to speak. We hope that none of you are the perpetrators of the foul deeds mentioned below, but perhaps a little thought for others may not go amiss. Lecture over, now read on.

SEPTEMBER DIARY

5th Sept.	1.45pm	Bowls Club
7th Sept.	7.45pm	Gardening Club
7th Sept.	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
10th Sept.	10am onwards	Churches Cycle Ride+
12th Sept.	1.45pm	Bowls Club
15th Sept.	8.00pm	Photo Scrap booking
19th Sept.	1.45pm	Bowls Club
20th Sept.	7.45 pm	Ladies Group
26th Sept.	1.45pm	Bowls Club

All events take place in the Village Hall except where annotated by +

REPORTS ON VILLAGE ACTIVITIES, AUGUST. Ladies Group.

A group of fifteen members enjoyed a very pleasant summer evening in the organic gardens of Maureen and Terry Rands. Terry escorted us round the grounds, giving lots of useful information and answering questions. This was followed by refreshments provided by Maureen and a collection was made for Quidenham Children's Hospice. Thank you both very much for a glimpse of your busy life.

The next meeting of the Ladies Group will be on Tuesday, 20th September, when we will hear a talk by Kate Gudgeon, a Dietician from the Watton Clinic, who will be pleased to answer any questions you may have relating to diet.

As always, the meetings are open to any lady in the village, whether a member or not, and commence at 7.45pm in the Village Hall.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Bowls Club.

This happy band continue to meet in the Village Hall every Monday at 1.45pm, they would seem to be more into the fun aspect of bowling than the cut-throat competitive game. Although it has been said that young Dennis hurls a mean wood!!! As well as cracking jokes.

Like all our Village activities, all folk are most welcome to pop along and savour the delights of carpet bowls. See you there?

Wedding.

Sam & Kelly (Scott) tied the knot on 6th August in the sylvan setting of Ovington Church.

The bride was radiant, opting to walk from home to the Church, escorted by her proud Dad. The weather, although looking rather ominous at times behaved itself, the sun making a welcome appearance during the photo session.

The service was conducted by the Rev'd Rod Broughall and the Choir sang "For the Beauty of The Earth" "Love Changes Everything" and a Gaelic Blessing during the signing of the register. The bridesmaids were simply gorgeous and the best man was, just that. Our best wishes go once again to the lovely couple for a long and happy life together.

Open Gardens at Chanticleer.

Terry and Maureen Rands and helpers from the Norfolk Organic Group gave visitors to their organic gardens in June and August the opportunity to find out more about organic gardening, the making of glass cloches from demijohns and the finer points of compost making, especially wormeries. Those wishing to find out more could select from the wide range of books stocked and on display by the group. Additional attractions this year were the presence of a large active wasps nest in the hedge, built by a relatively new breed of wasp from mainland Europe, using material filched from the potting shed, some pyramidal orchids and a dozen or so bee orchids. Although fund raising is not the main purpose of the open days, rather demonstrating the organic approach to gardening, entrance monies and the sale of refreshments raised just under £400.00 which was split between the HDRA, the Organic Organisation and the Quidenham Children's Hospice.

The gardens will be open again in 2006 for the 8th successive year. Details in Oracle later.

CHURCH NEWS.

There is still time to plan a pleasant cycle ride round some of Norfolk's lovely churches. All you need is a sponsorship form from Pansy or Peggy, a serviceable bike, a local map and away you go. This event will take place on Sept 10th.

On Saturday October 1st at 7.30pm we shall be featuring the Norwich Barbershop Singers in the Church. Those of you who heard their last concert here will know that a real treat is in store. Tickets at £5 each (to include refreshments) are available from either Peggy Lovewell or Pansy Westwood (883978)

On Dec 4th, The Breckland Harmony singers will be giving a concert in the Church at 3pm. These girls are really good, their repertoire is unsurpassed, their harmony is the envy of all, and the entertainment value is simply great. Tickets will be available either from Peggy or Pansy (883978) during November.

Church Rota for September.

4th Sept	No service at Ovington
11th Sept	10.30am Benefice service at Saham Toney
18th Sept	3pm. Evensong & Baptism
Lessons	Mrs. P. Westwood
Steward	Mrs. P. Westwood
Flowers	Wedding Flowers
25th Sept	9am Parish Communion
Lessons	Mr. C. Springford, Mrs. P. Westwood
Steward	Mrs. P. Lovewell
Flowers	Mrs. P. Westwood

St. Mary's Church Watton invites everyone to a morning of HARVEST FAMILY FUN on SAT SEPTEMBER 24th FROM 10AM TO 12 NOON at ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

For the younger folk there will be:-
Decorating gingerbread men. Crafts.
Potato printing and card making
Teddy parachuting!!!
Coffee on sale for Mum's & Dad's
Admission 50p in aid of Quidenham Children's Hospice

GARDENING CLUB.

The next gathering of the Gardening Club will be on Wednesday 7th Sept, in the Village hall as usual. The talk this month will be by John Davies of Clermont House on "Planting to encourage wild-life and birds into today's small gardens". The talk will be accompanied by slides and hopefully he will bring along a selection of plants. The October's talk, on the 5th, is by Trevor Harrison from South Creake Nursery, who will describe how to achieve late colour in the garden.

WELCOME TO OVINGTON.

We would like to offer a very warm welcome to the folks who have decided, wisely, to make their home in Ovington in recent weeks. We look forward to meeting and greeting you at some of our many Village functions.

CONGRATULATIONS.

For the second month running we are to celebrate a marriage in our Village Church. We send our congratulations, with all best wishes to Nicola and Paul for a lovely day and everlasting happiness thereafter.

AUGUST LOTTERY WINNERS.

£10.00	No. 27	Sue Richmond
£ 5.00	No. 18	Rod Rumsby
£ 5.00	No. 34	John Hardy

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR.

The **pre-bazaar meeting** will be held on Tuesday October the 4th at 10am in the Village Hall, open to anyone wishing to help with the Christmas Bazaar, which splendiferous event takes place on Saturday December 3rd 2005.

JULY RAINFALL

Sorry no information available at this time.

PARISH COUNCIL.

The next meeting, to which you are all invited, is on September 7th at 7.30pm in the committee room of the Village Hall.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS.

No 1.

To the editor, Ovington Oracle.

I enjoy reading your Village newsletter, which is known, and even accepted in adjacent areas contrary to your beliefs as stated in issue No 6 August 2005.

From one of those adjacent areas I would like to write and say how much I enjoy attending the Photo Scrapbooking group on the third Thursday of each month. As a new comer to Scrapbook keeping, I am learning a great deal from the group whilst at the same time enjoying a very sociable time spent with them.

Andrea Goode. Carbrooke.

(Thank you Andrea. You've got a mention for Carbrooke too)

No.2

Dear Madam.

Would you please include the following points in the next edition of the Oracle.

Dog fouling.

We appreciate the efforts of the majority of dog owners who do clear up after their animals, but, there has been a marked increase in dogs mess left on the pathways and verges within the village of late. We all know this is illegal, but more to the point shows a sad lack of consideration for others by owners failing to clear up behind their dogs.

Although not wishing to labour the point of children being most at risk from these unsavoury deposits, the fact remains that they are.

There are two plainly marked dog mess bins situated strategically in the village and plastic bags specifically designed to aid removal of dog droppings are available on request.

The other method of disposal, by which the mess is picked up in a plastic bag and then dropped in the hedgerow is not really a solution, and is also illegal.

Bonfires.

Will people having bonfires please consider their neighbours and/or take into account the wind direction before lighting fires.

Hedges overhanging rights of way.

Could we ask that owners of properties with hedges that adjoin the few paths in the village, and roadways where paths do not exist, keep them trimmed back please.

Speeding through the Village.

The clerk to the Parish Council has had cause to write to the Norfolk constabulary re. an apparent disregard for the speed limits through Ovington. The recommendation was to observe the traffic flow and note down the registration numbers of persistent offenders. This has been undertaken under local direction. The indications are that those vehicles which ignore the limits are driven in the majority by local residents. Speeding through a built up area is irresponsible at any time but is more so during the school holiday period when children are at large. Ovington not only has its infamous bends along the A1075, the Street itself has its fair share of blind corners. The Parish council therefore asks that motorists please take greater care when driving through the Village. They are looking to see a decrease in speeding over the next few weeks, because they are reluctant at this time to pass on the vehicle registration numbers to the appropriate authority, but will if no improvement is apparent.

Thank You

Ovington Parish Council (889342 or 882246)

No.3.

How do you like to wake up in the morning?

-Some soothing music?

-Your favourite radio show?

-The maid bringing your early morning cuppa?
(now wouldn't that be luvverly)

For me it's usually a gentle beep from the alarm clock, nothing too strident. But, twice this week my dreams have been shattered by the voice of a man shouting at his dog – at around 6.15am.

Which is about half an hour before my alarm call. While there are regulations about sounding motor horns, I appreciate there are none on shouting.

However, as I can usually survive on six and a half hours' sleep, having that reduced to only six is (to misquote Dickens) RESULT – MISERY! Shouting also upsets my dog, a delicate creature who is then restless and demands my presence downstairs.

PLEASE, whoever you are, if your dog is not totally under control do not let it off the lead – invest instead on a flexilead. You will already have discovered that the road from Saham is a rat-run from about 6am and anything running (or walking) free is in serious danger. If you really must shout, save it for after 6.40am when the double-decker First Bus (literally) thunders down here on its shortcut to Watton, shaking the houses, rattling the windows and ensuring no-one can sleep. Thank you for your consideration.
Christine.

Next month we will only publish good and positive thoughts, but as we depend entirely on your contributions its down to you folks.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

A lady purchased a brand new 32 foot motor home. On her first trip home, having driven onto the motorway, she set the cruise control to 70mph and calmly left the drivers seat to go into the back to make herself a cup of tea.

Not surprisingly the vehicle left the motorway, crashed and overturned.

The lady sued the motor home company for not explaining in the owner's manual that cruise control is not automatic pilot.

The jury awarded her £926634.00 plus a new motor home.

Hmmm.

Or

Assassination is the extreme form of censorship.

(We trust our readers will refrain from applying this mode of censoring to our editorial staff)

LAURIE'S WAR. 1945.

This year, 2005, has seen the country celebrating the fact that it is sixty years since the '39 – '45 war ended. People of my age find it difficult to accept that a child born at that time would be sixty now and probably in line for a pension. Mind you, those kids had a far from easy time of it, especially in the eight or nine years following the war, as rationing was still in force and for a year or two immediately following the armistice, the restrictions on some foodstuffs were even more stringent. There was also the threat of National service for the young men, a threat not ending until 1965. During those twenty years there were conflicts in many of the remaining areas still forming parts of our empire, coupled with Britain's commitment to the recently formed alliances of NATO, our troops were in constant demand supporting the USA in areas of the Far East.

Many people decried Britain's empirical designs on some of the poorer countries around the world, but to be fair we did provide them with an administration second to none. They had excellent medical care, they had fine railway networks, an incorruptible police force and if they were not exactly prosperous, they enjoyed a standard of living and a degree of protection that would seem to be sadly lacking today.

It is felt when we handed over control of these countries to their own democratically elected governments, we at least left them with an organized and well founded infrastructure, which should have guaranteed them a secure future. However we failed to foresee that lust for power and sheer greed would prevail in too many cases. Other colonial powers like France, Spain, Belgium, Portugal, Italy et al. would seem to have abandoned their colonies with undignified haste. It would seem a pity that more emphasis is not put on the positive side of Britain's colonial policies in today's educational system. I think we had nothing to be ashamed of.

We are probably well aware that the war with Japan came to a rather abrupt end due to the, in some peoples minds, controversial use of the atomic bomb. My own father, who was a prisoner of war of the Japanese, working on the infamous railway over the river Kwai, was in no doubt that that those bombs saved his and many of his comrade's lives. As it was a well known fact that they would have all been killed if it appeared to their guards that the war was not going in their favour. It was a matter of some regret that British POW's at the end of hostilities received a rather parsimonious gratuity of £65 whilst their

Canadian colleagues took home over a £1000.

I suppose it was a reflection of Britain's economic state at that time, lets face it, the country was broke.

As I mentioned earlier, things were not to improve for some time yet, but there were always those elements of society that seemed to thrive despite the dire straits that most of us found ourselves in. These were the black marketers, or "spivs" as they became known, always able to obtain the unobtainable, selling on at a considerable profit. Their habits no doubt diverted essential foodstuffs away from the usual shops, ensuring the poor housewife queued even longer for her bare necessities; just imagine waiting for a nice joint of meat from the butchers only to be told that your ration was only 2oz!. It's no wonder that more people smoked those days, took the edge off your appetite I expect.

On the political front there was a general election between VE day and VJ day. Winston Churchill's coalition government was deposed and a new Labour government was elected under Clement Attlee. The returning troops felt that the Labour party would be better able to provide houses and jobs plus a bigger share of the better things in life. Whether this dream was realized only time would tell..... Laurie Howe.

A TEA TIME TREAT?

If you are one of the many people in the village fortunate enough to be saddled with a sewage disposal system called colloquially, a septic tank, you may be interested in an alternative means of effecting a suitable and more ecological friendly method of dealing with your waste.

For more details contact Rod from the Parish Council on 882246 or at 31The Street, who has the relevant information.

Before you all go, don't forget the Village Hall is available for fights, either of the bun or the martial arts variety.

Call Michelle on 01953 884544 to book.

Also keep your letters, comments, stories and tales of the unexpected rolling in; saves us using up too much of our limited (you said it) brain power. Deadline for next months issue is **20th September**

To contact us:

<p>Laura at Sunnyside Farm Tel: 889151 Grace at 31 The Street. Tel 882246 Christine at Saham Road. Tel 885848</p>
