

THE OVINGTON ORACLE

OCTOBER 2005

No. 8

OCTOBER EDITORIAL:

Welcome Ovingtonians to the October issue of your Oracle. This is a strange time of year, two seasons in one: autumn began officially on 22nd of September, yet British Summertime continues until 30th October. Holidays are over and we are looking forward to the next opportunities for revelry. It's like the moment when the roller coaster is poised at the top of the hill waiting to plunge down the track – carrying us towards Christmas. There, I've said it (well somebody had to!). Plans are forming already for the Ovington Bazaar – mark the 3rd December in your diaries now. But let's see what is in store before then. Oh! And don't forget to put your clocks back on 29th October. Remember the advice "Spring forward, Fall back".

PONG:

When we so blithely referred in our intro last month about certain things getting up our respective noses, we did not anticipate that we would all be assailed by pungent odours throughout the Bank Holiday weekend. This savage attack on our olfactory organs did elicit the odd comment or twelve from the general public, asking in the main "What was somebody going to do about it?" Not much as it turned out. Environmental Health department was unmanned - Holidays. The farmer was busy gathering in the sheaves and could not be contacted. The Parish Councils reaction to the request that they took a spade each and dug the stuff in was not met with a deal of enthusiasm.

However they did manage to persuade the weather man to alter the wind direction which generously sent the odours towards Watton, who have since expressed their appreciation in no uncertain terms!

Alls well that ends well and the animal waste products which caused the problem are now fertilizing next years crop.

HEDGES:

Thanks to all those good folk who responded to the request in last months Oracle to trim back their hedges. Ta, greatly appreciated.

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OCTOBER DIARY

1st Oct	7.30pm	Barber Shop Concert+
3rd Oct	1.45pm	Bowls Club
4th Oct	10.00am	Pre Bazaar meeting
5th Oct	7.45pm	Gardening Club
10th Oct	1.45pm	Bowls Club
15th Oct	7 for 7.30pm	Scotton Trophy Quiz
17th Oct	1.45pm	Bowls Club
18th Oct	7.45pm	Ladies Group
19th Oct	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting
20th Oct	8.00pm	Photo Scrapbooking
24th Oct	1.45pm	Bowls Club
31st Oct	1.45pm	Bowls Club

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

WHAT WE DID IN AUGUST:

Ladies Group.

Although we were down in numbers this month, we had the most informative talk by Kate Dudgeon a dietician from Watton Clinic. Suffice it to say that some of us will now be changing our shopping habits. Sorry Burger King! We are very lucky indeed to have for our October speaker Mr. David Reeve who will be talking about his life "Policing The Royals". This evening will be a good opportunity to bring along guests or new members as it promises to be a most interesting topic and we may even hear a few secrets about life with the Windsor's! So put the date on your calendar – Tuesday 18th October at 7.45pm in the Village Hall. The competition for the evening will be "an autumn leaf" Looking to November, the 15th, this will be the AGM. However we hope to keep the business part of the meeting brief as we are pleased to have with us Mr. Graham Donachie of Oxborough Hall. He will demonstrate how to make a Christmas Wreath. Those of you who have met Mr. Donachie before know this will be an entertaining evening.

We look forward to seeing old and new faces at our meetings every third Tuesday of the month.

September Lottery Winners.

£15.00	No 29	Denis Todd
£15.00	No 49	Sue Mortimer
£10.00	No 14	Angela Wynne
£ 5.00	No 7	Ted Bowman

Wedding.

Nicola & Paul's wedding took place in Ovington Church on 17th September, a lovely sunny afternoon. The Bride, supremely confident, looked divine, escorted to the Church by her Dad who it must be said looked as suave and elegant as ever.

The service was conducted by Father Michael Johnstone with an introduction and welcome by Canon Mair Talbot.

The couple left the Church to Mendelssohn's "Wedding March"

We are sure all our readers will join us in wishing the happy couple a long and happy life together.

Bowls Club.

The club meets every Monday at 1.45pm in the Village Hall. Denis was so excited by his Lottery win last month; he made two strikes in a row at last Monday's meeting. He may have made it three but Peggy reminded him it was carpet bowls they were playing, not ten pin bowling and strikes were not really what the game was all about. Every one admitted that the fun levels are getting better week by week, so why not pop along and give it a try.

July & August Rainfall.

July 2005	60mm	or	2.36"
July 2004	73.5mm	or	2.90"
July 1995	24.25mm	or	1.00"
August 2005	54.5mm	or	2.10"
August 2004	129mm	or	5.08"
August 1995	13.5mm	or	0.50"

Thanks again to Ted Bowman for these figures.

Churches Sponsored Cycle Ride.

The weather was dreadful on Saturday 10th Sept. But a few gallons of wet rain pouring down their necks failed to deter the determined cyclists. Our grateful thanks go to those who ventured forth on their bikes and not forgetting those who manned the Church. Sponsorship results will be published later.

Gardening Club.

There was a heart-warming good turnout for the talk by John Davies of Clermont Hall on "Planting to encourage wildlife and birds in today's small gardens". The illustrated talk was most interesting and all members went away with some brilliant ideas for transforming their gardens into havens for wildlife.

Next month, **October 5th**, Trevor Harrison of South Creake Nursery, will talk on "Late colour in the Garden"

Parish Council Meeting.

The meeting of the Parish Council took place on Sept. 7th and the councillors were taken aback, excited even, to find the Village Hall packed to the gunwales.

However it transpired that these mighty throngs were the members of the Gardening club awaiting a discourse on Wildlife and Birds.

The Councilor's disappointment was ameliorated somewhat by the attendance at their meeting of one stalwart and one District Councillor.

Having dealt with the minutes of the last meeting, matters arising there-from, and correspondence, the council's attention was drawn to the matter of the annual audit of the Parish accounts. These had already been checked and approved by an independent examiner and it remained for the council to agree and sign the annual return and statement of assurance. This was done.

Authorisation was given for the signing of a cheque to cover the clerk's salary. At which point the Chair proposed a vote of thanks to the Clerk for his financial expertise and dedication.

Discussion took place on a planning application for erection of a stable block in Redhill lane, it was agreed that there were no legal grounds for objection to this application but concerns were voiced about an earlier application for residential use on the same site. The clerk read a letter from the BDC planning department stating that the former application had been turned down and that any previously erected dwelling must be removed henceforth.

The date for the next meeting was set for 19th October at the usual venue, at which all members of the public are welcome.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS FOR OCTOBER.

SCOTTON TROPHY

Prepare for battle – it's the annual quiz! Teams of four are invited to compete for the Scotton Trophy on **Saturday 15th October** – assemble from 7pm for a prompt 7.30 start. The £6 per team entry fee covers refreshments of the tea and biscuit variety, but contestants are welcome to bring their own particular poison if they so wish. There will be a raffle – proceeds of which will go to Village Hall funds. Space is limited, so ring Christine on 885848 to book your team in A.S.A.P.

CHRISTMAS PRE-BAZAAR MEETING.

This meeting will be held at **10am** on **Tuesday 4th October** in the **Village hall**, this is open to anyone wishing to help with the Christmas Bazaar, which is scheduled to take place on Saturday December 3rd. If you can't make this meeting but still feel you are able to help in any way please contact Laura or Grace. Their contact details are on Page one of this issue.

CHURCH NEWS

NORWICH BARBERS SHOP SINGERS IN CONCERT THIS SATURDAY 1st OCTOBER 7.30pm.

Tickets for this concert, which promises to be great entertainment, are available from Pansy at £5 apiece to include refreshments, (or pay at the door) Ring Pansy on 883978 or call in at No 30 The Street to book your place.

BRECKLAND HARMONY SINGERS.

As mentioned in last months Oracle this well loved local group will be giving a concert in Ovington Church on **December 4th at 3pm**. Tickets will be available during November. Watch this space for more details.

Church Rota for October.

2nd October	6pm	Harvest Festival Flowers	Harvest Flowers
9th October	9am	Parish Communion Lessons	Mrs. P. Westwood, Mr. R. Malton
		Stewards Flowers	Mrs. P. Westwood Mrs. P. Westwood
16th October	6pm	Evensong Lessons	Mrs. P. Westwood
		Stewards Flowers	Mrs. P. Westwood Mrs. P. Lovewell
23rd October	9am	Parish Communion Lessons	Mrs. A. Johnson, Mr. D. Pritchard
		Stewards Flowers	Mr. D. Pritchard Mrs. C. Springford
30th October		Benefice Service	

POPPY APPEAL.

From 29th October during daylight hours, Pansy will be collecting for the British Legion Poppy Appeal. Please give generously, remember those that gave their all. Many Thanks

VILLAGE HALL.

Are you planning something special? Say for instance, an anniversary appearance, a birthday bash, a concert cabaret, or even a daughters debut. Then, you could do no better than book our Lovely Village Hall for the occasion. Call Michelle on 01953 884544 for more details or to book. Go on, you know it makes sense.

PARKING.

Just had relayed to us from the P.C. Complaints have been coming in that people are still parking cars on the pavement, which means that folks walking through the village have either to step into the road or squeeze twixt car and hedge. Now the evenings are drawing in, this manoeuvre is fraught to say the least. Mind you if the cars are parked on the road they should by law face in the direction of the traffic flow, also display lights in areas where there is no street lighting, according to our friendly local policeman. Otherwise insurance claims, should the vehicle not be seen and run into, are unlikely to be met.

Heard this one?

My wife's gone to the Welsh border.

Wye?

Search me.

Or

My wife's gone on a singing tour of South Korea
Seoul?

No, R&B.

Then again

I took an I.Q. test. The results were negative.
(Surprise, surprise,)(ed.)

But

Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.

Instructions seen on packaging.

Nytol Sleep Aid:

Warning: May cause drowsiness!

Laurie – Post War:

I mentioned in my last story that despite the war ending the personal circumstances of most people in the U.K. showed little or no improvement as rationing tightened its grip. Fuel was also becoming scarce, the lack of coal meant that many power stations were unable to fulfill the demands and power cuts became a regular feature of life. This all seemed a bit daft to me as many miners had been called up for military service, usually ending up as cooks or clerks, which meant that other young men were drafted into the mines to try and restore the output of king coal. In the Autumn of 1946 I and four of my Railway mates had to report for medicals in preparation for a stint as National Servicemen. One poor chap failed the medical, as it turned out he had T.B. whilst the rest of us sweated it out, waiting for the dreaded call up papers to arrive. These soon followed, telling me to report for training at Lincoln. The weather had turned cold, wet and it began to snow as we were greeted at the barrack gate by the duty Sgt. He duly sorted us into three ranks and called out our names from his clipboard, taking the trouble to point out which was our left foot, before marching us off in a shuffling gait to a line of wooden huts the other side of the camp. So this was to be our home for the next six weeks, although we were not to be the junior members of this mans army for long as two hundred hopefuls were inducted every two weeks. After giving us a brief introduction to the Army's way of doing things we were allowed into our hut, some 24 of us, with an iron framed bed and a steel wall mounted locker to hold our personal (very few) possessions. In the middle of the hut was a small iron stove with a significantly empty coal bucket beside it, so much for home comforts. Everyone was looking forward to a hot meal, but within minutes the strident tones of the Sgt. summoned us outside to fall in and go and collect (and sign for) our bedding, which consisted of three biscuit type cushions (mattress) three woollen blankets (no sheets) and a pillow. Having just time to dump these on our beds we were marched off to be issued with uniforms (two of) including berets, boots, eating utensils, mess tins, webbing, packs large and small and thoughtfully a little kit with darning wool, needles and cotton for running repairs to said kit.

We staggered back to the hut and whilst sorting out this mountain of kit I also took stock of the blokes either side of me, one of whom turned out to be a piano player with a big dance band from the Midlands, whilst the other had come directly from Borstal. So it seemed they were both good with their hands! However I did take the

precaution of not leaving anything of value lying around, I thought it best not to tempt the lad as it seemed he was doing his best to turn his life around. Not long after the Sgt. reappeared and having us fallen in marched us off to the cookhouse for a much needed lunch, which turned out to be roast potatoes and corned beef, followed by a large sweet and plenty of tea. After war time rations this seemed not bad at all and we marched back to our hut with a nice warm glow for the first time since we arrived. When I looked on my bed however there was a note stating that I was to report to R.H.Q. to see the Colonel. My heart sank into my new boots as I wondered what I had done wrong so early in my career to warrant such a call. I arrived at his office and was joined by several other lads, much to my relief, to be told after marching in to his office that as ex-cadets he expected us to set a good military example to the rest of our intake. Phew I was glad that flap was over. As darkness fell and the temperatures fell lower and lower, we were glad of a hot tea in the cookhouse (which in itself was a warm building) before retiring to the NAAFI, when it opened, where we could spend some of our first day's pay of 4 shillings (20p) on beer and fags.....

Laurie Howe.

Thanks again Laurie for those memories, certain of which I am sure bring back waves of nostalgia to those of our gallant, (unwilling?) chaps who underwent the pleasures of National Service.

Now! Here's an invitation you can't refuse. How about putting together a story / anecdote from your past that may be of interest to, or raise a titter or three amongst our readers. We will not publish your names if you are shy, but will only accept items that we can identify as coming from a legitimate source.

O.K. Pens to paper people – no, hang on, that writing thing went out the window years since. So fingers to keyboards then, we can't wait to hear from you. Who knows, may be the start of a new career, could be the next J. K. Rowling is living in Ovington.

(That's Harry Potters Mum, in case you didn't know)

So it's good night from me & goodnight from her. Oh yes and her too, sorry Laura.

Deadline for Novembers edition is 21st October please.