

THE OWINGTON ORACLE

March 2006

No. 3/06

Hi, everyone, well, is spring in the air? The sun shone on Saturday last and we really thought we were in for a heat wave-----now as I sit writing this I see a scattering of snowflakes driven horizontally by a biting, lazy, east wind straight from the Steppes of Russia teasing the curtains through a less than snugly fitting window. (Must put it on my man's "to do" list). Seriously folks, it will get better, trust me.

MARCH DIARY

1st Mar	Gardening Club	7.45 pm
4th Mar	Quiz & Chips Nite	7.30pm
6th Mar	Bowls Club	1.45 pm
10th Mar	Ladies Group- Cheese/Wine*	
13th Mar	Bowls Club	1.45 pm
16th Mar	Photoscrapbooking	8.00pm
20th Mar	Bowls Club	1.45 pm
21st Mar	Ladies Group	7.45pm
27th Mar	Bowls Club	1.45 pm

22nd April Table Top Sale 10.00am

All events held in the Village Hall except one marked*

SCOTTON TROPHY

QUIZ 'n CHIPS NITE.

Saturday 4th March at 7.30pm

Good news, the quiz is fully booked.

See you there.

BOWLS CLUB.

Still meets on Monday afternoons. Most members have been spurred on by local lad Mervyn King's exploits in becoming Bowls World Champion, so competition is reaching fever pitch.

Dennis is confident of being seeded for next year's championship - ever the optimist!

For more information contact Peggy on 884073

CHURCH NEWS

On Mothering Sunday, 26th March, it being a special occasion there will be Simnel Cake and the distribution of posies of flowers. The service will be conducted by a visiting Vicar.

CHURCH ROTA FOR FEBRUARY

5th. Mar	No service
12th. Mar	9am Parish Communion
Lesson	Mr. C. Springford
	Mrs. P. Westwood
Steward	Mrs. P. Westwood
No Flowers during Lent	
19th. Mar	3pm Evensong
Lesson	Mrs. P. Westwood
Steward	Mrs. P. Westwood
No Flowers during Lent	
26th. Mar	9am Parish Communion
Lesson	Mrs. A. Johnson
	Mrs. P. Westwood
Steward	Mrs. P. Lovewell
No Flowers during Lent	

RAINFALL FOR JANUARY

January 2006	19mm or	0.75 inches
January 2005	50.5 mm or	1.98 inches
January 1996	26.5 mm or	1.04 inches

Thanks again to Ted Bowman for these readings.

Seems that the start of this year is a touch on the dry side, will it continue? Watch this space.

WELCOME:-

To Dave & family, recently moved into The Street. Hope you soon settle into our community and we look forward to meeting and greeting you.

Excerpt from the Quiz & Chips:-

Q. What's got four legs and an arm ?

A. A rottweiler !!

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Despite some apparent confusion over start times the august body of Councillors eventually began their deliberations in front of two members of the public, eager to witness democracy in action. They were not disappointed.

The Clerk reported that the accounts had been audited and there were no comments or recommendations from the audit commission. The Village Hall Management Committee had written and asked for a representative from the Parish Council be nominated to serve on the V. Hall Committee. It was agreed that Michelle Prothero continues in this position, she was duly nominated.

Authority was given for payment of Clerk's salary (Jan to March) and for Audit Commissions fee for 2004 /5 audit.

Suggestions had been made from members of the public that a litter pick through the Village would enhance the ambience thereof. Full discussion took place and a proposal was made that the necessary equipment, including fluorescent jackets, bags and gloves be purchased out of the Village maintenance fund to a maximum of £100.00.

This was agreed unanimously and Saturday 1st April was declared to be a suitable day. (See details elsewhere in this newsletter)

The Clerk was asked to inform SERCO that the verges on the A1075 through Ovington would also benefit from a cleanup and that Highways be made aware of a drainage problem on the crossroads.

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be held on **12th April at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall.

Prior notification was also given that the annual Parish Meeting and P.C. AGM will take place on **10th May at 7.30pm**

GARDENING CLUB.

The presentation this month is by Ken Harbutt from Rougham Hall Nurseries, who will explain the relationship between Poppies, Weather & Rain. Ken is a very popular speaker much in demand so we are sure you will enjoy his talk.

Confucius, he say:-

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt!

LADIES GROUP

A visit to Matchu Pichu.

Despite the cold weather, the majority of our ladies turned out on 21st February to hear Mr. Robert Chalmers talk about his recent visit to the magical Inca village of Matchu Pichu. This was supported by an array of colourful slides. It was most informative and enjoyable and our sincere thanks to Robert for taking time out of his busy schedule to talk to us.

The next **social** occasion for the Ladies group will be a Cheese and Wine evening courtesy of Joyce and Jeremy Wood at the Old Crown on **March 10th at 7.30pm.**

The next **meeting** is on **March 21st at 7.45pm** and will be an evening of pottery painting demonstration by Mel Wallis Johnson. All the ladies will be able to participate by choosing an item of pottery to paint – which will then be taken away to be fired by Mel and returned to us in time for the next meeting. Some of the pieces would make nice personal gifts for family and friends, so do come along and “have a go”, it should be fun

TABLE TOP SALE in the Village Hall on 22nd April 10-2pm

You know it's spring cleaning time so don't dump your surplus treasures, bring them along to our Table Top sale and make yourself some easy money in the process. Tables in the hall will be provided, or you can set up outside in traditional car boot style. Please, **Book your Table @ £5. each, or £4 outside. From Michelle on 884544.** as soon as possible. All profit to the Village Hall. Snacks and refreshments will be available. **Hurry, availability will be on a first come first served basis**

OVINGTON LOTTERY.

February Winners:-

£10	No 25	Ellen Angus
£ 5	No 51	Maureen Cable
£ 5	No 9	Dave Carr

He also said:-

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it!

POLICE MATTERS.

We have had notification that the Mobile Police Station, will be positioned at the following locations during March 2006.

ASHILL 23rd March 2006 between the hours of 09.00 am and 10.30 am.

BRADENHAM 23rd March 2006 between the hours of 11.00 am and 12.30 pm

SHIPDHAM 23rd March 2006 between the hours of 1.30 pm and 3.00 pm

SAHAM TONEY 9th March 2006 between the hours of 1.30 pm and 3.00 pm.

The mobile unit is situated in one or more villages throughout the Western Police Division on a daily basis. But we have listed only those in our immediate vicinity. For the full list contact the Parish Council on 882246. The Police Station in Watton is also manned at various times during the week, for timings of these opening hours see board outside the Police Station.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO KEEP OVINGTON TIDY.

As mentioned in the P.C. report it was decided to give the old place a bit of a tidy up before the hedges and roadside verges become overgrown with daffodils, tulips, weeds etc.

We did a thorough clean through three years ago and the improvements to the locale were quite remarkable.

The P.C. have agreed to buy the necessary safety and hygiene equipment, so all that is required is a gathering of willing volunteers to help with picking up the accumulated rubbish along our roadsides. We will not include the main road, i.e. the A1075, in this project for safety reasons.

Should you have the urge to participate then please turn up at the **Village Sign at 10am on Saturday 1st April** where you will be greeted warmly and provided with all necessary gear. There is a rumour that tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided in the Village Hall at strategic times during the operations. Hope you can join in and keep our Village looking smarter than the average.

STANTA TRAINING.

During the period 3rd to 12th March The Stanta Training area will be used by low flying helicopters at night.

There will be limited firing in April due to lambing, but there will be a large logistic exercise over the period 10th to 18th April which will result in increased vehicular activity between Watton and the main Stanta area.

Signed. A. Miller. Range Officer, Stanta.

VILLAGE HALL A.G.M.

Talk about quiet, one could hear a pin drop during this meeting, the audience of three sat entranced as the achievements of the last year were outlined by the Chair. Bookings, especially for private parties, are on the increase, the kitty also proved to be pretty healthy too.

Things looked so good in fact that the entire committee was re-elected without opposition. This doesn't mean to say that laurels are being rested upon, there is still room for some new faces, fresh blood (not literally) revolutionary ideas too. Join this happy band of pilgrims-----don't all rush at once folks. The Chairman praised the efforts of her team, didn't have much choice really, she was, after all, outnumbered. A comment was raised from the floor, that Ovington should be justly proud of its hall and the village does indeed owe a vote of thanks to the stalwarts who voluntarily keep it ticking over so smoothly. Future projects are the modernisation of and updates to, the toilet facilities.

BOOKINGS

Please ring **Michelle on 884544** to book the Village Hall for your meetings or parties

DEADLINE

Please may we have your submissions for next months publication by the **17th March 2006.**

To contact the editors of The Oracle:

Laura at Sunnyside Farm	889151
Christine at Saham Road	885848
Grace at 31 The Street	882246

Street Cleansing in Breckland

Welcome to the street cleansing department of Street Scene. We play an important role in keeping Breckland's environment clean and tidy through a range of environmental services such as litter picking, street sweeping, litter and dog bin emptying and fly-tip and graffiti removal.

We work closely with a variety of partners, including resident and community groups to help enhance our services. However, there are a small number of individuals who fail to take responsibility for their wastes and as a result spoil Breckland's beautiful landscape. To combat this anti-social behaviour we need to operate a strict street cleansing programme. We are also embarking on a new education and awareness campaign to address the issue of litter and fly-tipping. An important element of this campaign is to remind people that every Local Authority has the power to take legal action against individuals who drop litter and fly-tip.

We need residents and visitors to notify us of any public areas that need attention. We also want to hear about any illegal activities that are happening in your area such as fly-tipping so that we can investigate and take the appropriate action. We appreciate anything you can do to help.

Why can't I place shredded paper in my black bin?

We are aware that in today's society we are encouraged to shred certain documents which have personal details on them due to the risk of identity theft. But what do we do about recycling them?

Paper is sorted mechanically at the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) run by Norfolk Environmental Waste Services (NEWS) at Costessey. The machine recognises items by their original shape so anything smaller than the size of a postcard is unlikely to be picked up. This means that shredded paper will fall through the grid and either be lost to landfill as contamination, along with other items such as bottle tops, or become entangled in moving parts and possibly cause machine damage.

If you can't use the shredded paper for composting, animal bedding or packaging, the best thing to do is to take shredded paper to a paper recycling bank. This removes any problems associated with sorting, as the collection is of just one material which has already been separated from other items. Thanks for recycling!

Dog Fouling and Irresponsible Dog Owners

One of the biggest complaints received by Breckland Council each year is that of 'dog fouling' - owners allowing their dogs to foul the public highway and public areas and failing to clean up the mess.

We've designated our land a 'poop scoop' area under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. This applies to any land which is open to the air and which the public have access to. If a dog fouls on this land and the person in charge of the dog doesn't clear it up, they are guilty of an offence.

We can give a Fixed Penalty Notice (£50.00) to anyone who commits this offence and if they don't pay the Fixed Penalty Notice within 14 days of receipt they could be prosecuted and receive a maximum fine of £1000.

If you know anyone who is committing an offence under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, please contact the **Breckland Dog Warden on 01362 656299**. We want to keep our beautiful area pleasant for everyone to use. All information we receive will be treated as confidential.

BE A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER

CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG

Any requests to have dog mess cleared away should be forwarded to Street Scene:

Street Scene Helpline

Telephone: 01362 656878

Email: streetscene@breckland.gov.uk

Fax: 01362 699096

Write to: Breckland Council, Street Scene, Elizabeth House, Walpole Loke, Dereham, Norfolk. NR19 1EE