

# ***THE OVINGTON ORACLE***

**MAY 2006**

**No 5/06**

**Hi,**

As I write this I realize its only three weeks to our Fete. We hope you will come and enjoy yourselves and help to raise money for our Village hall and Church. A lot of work goes into organising a fete and I guess that like me you would hate to see all that effort wasted.

So please give us your support, even if you just come along and watch, at the very least you will, without doubt, enjoy the atmosphere.

We will be collecting for the fete, in the village on **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May, from 7.00pm.**

Thank you in anticipation for any contributions you may be able to donate.

# OVINGTON SUMMER FETE

**To be held in the Village Hall grounds on**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June**

**3.00 pm – 5.00 pm**

We will have the following stalls:-

Cakes - Lyndia, Barbara and Danielle.

Plants - Cath and John Books/Toys - Mair

Handmade Cards - Ann and David Bric a Brac - Christine and Grace

Gifts - Michelle Tombola - Pansy and Peggy

Raffle - Rod. 1<sup>st</sup> prize, one of many, will be a superb hamper of top quality foods, drinks, and goodies - too many to list. (To be drawn at 4.45pm)

There will also be several sideshows, competitions, a Ju-Jitsu demonstration and to test your skill and rid you of stress, Aunt Sally.

Refreshment available throughout the afternoon with our much renowned BBQ on line from 4.15pm.

Cakes can be delivered to Lyndia at (1 Church Road) on Friday evening 9<sup>th</sup> June or 10.00am on Saturday at the Village Hall.

We would love to see some **more helpers**, so, if you haven't been asked to help on the day but feel you would like to volunteer, even if it's **only for an hour**. Please contact Laura or Grace a.s.a.p.

## JUNE DIARY

5 <sup>th</sup> June	Bowls Club	1.45pm
7 <sup>th</sup> June	Garden Club visit	7.00pm*
10 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>FETE</b>	3.00pm
10/11 <sup>th</sup> June	Open Garden	10-4pm*
12 <sup>th</sup> June	Bowls Club	1.45 pm
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Photoscrapbooking	8.00pm
19 <sup>th</sup> June	Bowls Club	1.45 pm
20 <sup>th</sup> June	Ladies Group Boat trip *	
26 <sup>th</sup> June	Bowls Club	1.45 pm

To be held in the village hall except marked \*

### Open Garden

Maureen and Terry Rands will be opening their Organic Garden on **Sat/Sun 10/11<sup>th</sup> June**. Admission £2. (children free) all proceeds go to the HDRA, Quidenham Children's Hospice and the RNIB. Refreshments available and off road parking. For further details please ring 881194.

### Gardening Club

Our thanks to Pansy Westwood for holding a Coffee Morning and Plant sale at her home on May 13<sup>th</sup> to raise funds for the Gardening club.

The June meeting of the Gardening club will be a visit to Didlington Nursery on **7<sup>th</sup> June**. Please meet there at **7.00pm**.

### Ladies Group

#### Pub Walk

The Chequers at Thompson provided an enjoyable venue for our Annual Pub Walk On May 16<sup>th</sup>. Our thanks to all who participated and a pleasant evening was had by all.

#### Boat trip

Our next event is a boat trip on the Broads on **20<sup>th</sup> June**. Transport is being arranged to leave The Crescent in Ovington at **5.15pm**. The Ladies attending will be notified nearer the date about the final arrangements. Sensible shoes and something warm to wear is advisable in case of inclement weather (please note that it is always cooler near the water).

Connie Springford (Sec)

**Bowls Club** -Unfortunately, our membership has now reduced to 16 members, occasionally they bring visitors which helps the funds. Where can you get 2hrs entertainment each week for £4 per year?

New Members most welcome.

Peggy

## Church News

### Church Rota for June

<b>4<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>No service</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>9am Parish Communion</b>
Lesson	Mr. C. Springford
	Mrs. P. Westwood
Steward	Mrs. P. Lovewell
Flowers	Mrs. P. Lovewell
<b>18<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>6pm Evensong</b>
Lesson	Mrs. P. Westwood
Steward	Mrs. P. Westwood
Flowers	Mrs. P. Westwood
<b>25<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>9am Parish Communion</b>
Lesson	Mrs. A. Johnson
	Mr. D. Pritchard
Steward	Mr. D. Pritchard
Flowers	Mrs. P. Westwood

At the annual Parochial Church Council meeting, Pansy and Peggy were re-elected as Churchwardens.

Due to the ill health and as they no longer live in Ovington, Rex and Jill Malton have resigned from the PCC. We would like to express our gratitude for all the work they have done in the past years.

### Parish Church Crisis

How many Californians does it take to change a light bulb? – Six – one to change the bulb and five to share the experience. How many people does it take to run a Parish Church? Well, as many as you like, but a lot more than two senior citizens.

Sadly that is the position in Ovington at the moment. Peggy, Pansy and I are the entire Parochial Church Council.

Rather than just leaving things to slide from bad to worse, we would love to share our dilemma with you, because the Church in Ovington is here for you all. Perhaps by talking it over together as a Village, we can set some realistic goals and find workable solutions.

Come to the Village Hall on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 8pm**. We will explain more about the situation and some ideas that have occurred to us, then serve a cup of tea to give you time to think. After that we'll have a discussion in small groups to give you the chance to think of things you'd like to do to keep your Parish Church here for future generations to enjoy. We look forward to seeing as many people as possible on **13<sup>th</sup> June**.

Canon Mair Talbot

## Parish Council

What a turn out for the Annual Parish meeting on the evening of 10<sup>th</sup> May!!!

We would like to report that the Hall was bursting at the seams, but we can't, 'cos it weren't.

However all is not lost as two members of the parish turned up, albeit one of whom was the Chairman's wife, making and serving the mid-evening refreshments (there was plenty to go around this year)

Choking back his obvious disappointment at the lack of a large audience the Chairman opened the meeting with a warm welcome to those present. He then read out, or improvised, reports from the various organisations within the Village. It seems that all are functioning well, but would welcome new members to their regular meetings and various events. The meeting was then thrown open to the main body of the forum for their comments, suggestions, criticisms et al.

Mention was made of the lack of an official Bus Stop along the A1075 for Ovington residents. The Clerk reported this matter was being looked into as was the matter of defective drains on the crossroads.

The parish meeting closed and an abundance of comestibles and liquid refreshments were distributed, devoured and digested.

Following on from that, the Parish Council AGM commenced. The clerk read out a letter of resignation from councillor Michelle Protheroe who was unable to continue due to family commitments. The chairman asked the clerk to commence procedures for filling the vacancy. The officers of the council then stood down and were, without objection, re-elected to their previous positions. The Parish Council is formed thus:-

Chairman, Rod Rumsby.

Vice Chairman, Chris Lewis.

Councillor, Dave Carr.

Councillor, Laura Sproston.

The next meeting of the PC will be on 5<sup>th</sup> July

If anyone is interested in becoming a councillor, please contact in the first instance the Clerk to the Council: John Goode on 01953 889342. or see information on the notice boards.

### STOP PRESS.

Bus's will stop in either direction on demand, just south of the X roads on A1075.

## Ovington Lottery.

### May Winners:-

£10 No 12 Peni Mckay

£ 5 No 3 Christine Reilly

£ 5 No 26 Cyril Richmond

### Letters to the Editor:-

Dear Editor

#### Dog fouling, again

It seems that previous warnings about the dangers of dog fouling in the village have gone unheeded in some areas. Church Road seems to be a favourite place (but not the only one. Ed) where this happens and some dog owners are not clearing up afterwards. It is a potential danger to children who use this road and turns the noble art of mowing grass into a risky and hazardous procedure. Please note that if this fouling is seen happening, owners will be asked to remove the offending package. Your co-operation in keeping our Wayland village a pleasant place would be greatly appreciated.

C. Springford.

### RAINFALL FOR APRIL

April 2006	19.5 mm or 0.78 inches
April 2005	34.5 mm or 1.38 inches
April 1996	5.5 mm or 0.22 inches

Thank you to Ted for this information

### Breckland Council- Register of Electors

The Council are looking to recruit a number of people with knowledge of their local area to carry out canvassing duties for approximately 4 weeks during Sept/Oct 06. This will involve personal visits to a number of properties to obtain voter information. You will be required to attend a training session (for which you will be paid) prior to carrying out Canvass Officer duties.

If you are interested or require further information/ application form, please contact Breckland Council Electoral Services on 01362 656875 ext 271

### Breckland Harmony

The singers who use our Village Hall each Monday evening are giving a concert at Watton Methodist Church Flower Festival on Saturday evening 3<sup>rd</sup> June at 7.30pm. Adm. £5. Everyone is welcome

## OVINGTON BENDS-THE TRUTH

Sad to say the bends have claimed another victim, an accident which required the services of the air ambulance. Let's see if we find someone to blame.

### Part 2

It was a dejected Flavious who reported back to Eccles that he might be instrumental in concluding his, Eccles, business ventures if he obeyed orders and constructed a new road effectively bypassing Eccles' Taverna. Eccles Iceni blood began to boil and it was with some difficulty that Carlsberga persuaded him against gathering together a band of ex warriors and descending upon Tacticus's camp to exact retribution. A lose, lose, situation as she saw it and suggested a public meeting be called to discuss the implications of Tacticus' plan and consider ways to preserve the Taverna's custom whilst satisfying Tacticus's demands for a new road. Eccles elder daughter, Becks, (a comely wench by all accounts) was summoned and instructed to pass the word that a meeting was to be held that night in the Taverna and the ale would be half price. A bad move as it happened, the demands for ale exceeded the supply, and the ensuing melee between disgruntled customers and serious debaters reduced the gathering to a shambles, so everyone went home.

Except of course Eccles, Carlsberga, Flavious and Eccles handyman cum privy digger Baldwick, who reckoned he had a cunning plan. As usual he was ignored. Carlsberga brought out her emergency supply of fermented ground elder leaves as an aid to thought and the four of them sat long into the night chewing the fat of an ancient, and long dead, goat.

Eventually, in the cold light of dawn and in desperation they agreed to listen to Baldwick's "cunning" plan having failed to agree amongst themselves the way forward.

Baldwick's plan was quite simple really, he suggested Flavious start laying out the road in a straight line south towards Ovington from roughly where King Row is to join the Ovington / Saham road about where the cross roads is now. This idea was met with alarm as it seemed to be playing right into Tacticus's hands. "But wait" said Baldwick, "Here is the cunning bit" "Continue serf" mumbled Eccles, beginning to suffer from ground elder poisoning.

"Show the plan to Tacticus, gain his approval, then start marking out and building the road from the northern end" said Baldwick completely unaffected by the copious intake of ground elder, or anything else for that matter. "Meanwhile send B'Eccles" (a hot headed pillager who had yet to come to terms with the Roman rule) "Up into the northern tribes of Britannica, to join in their longstanding revolt with the Roman invaders, collecting other discontents from the Lincolnshire tribes on the way. This will cause the Romans to call upon their reserves, namely Tacticus's legions, to sally north to quell the uprising, leaving Flavious, without Roman troops / road builders, to be forced to employ local (wink wink) Iceni labour who hadn't as yet grasped the principles of straight lines. The road could then be built so that none but a drunken goatherd would ever use it" Flavious, when consulted afterwards, reckoned he'd only heard Baldwick's discourse as far as planning the straight road, subsequent ideas would probably have offended his sensibilities as a road builder of great

renown in Roman circles anyway and may well have led him to denounce the whole project.

The plan was produced, duly approved by Tacticus, and B'Eccles and his woad covered cohorts were sent north to do their worst.

Alas, Baldwick's cunning plan went awry.

B'Eccles decided that the Lincolnshire tribes needed training in inflicting mayhem before being let loose on the Roman hoards. (It is told he rather fancied the tribal leaders several daughters, but that's only hearsay.) However he was delayed. Flavious cracked on with the new road southwards using trained Romans, progress was frighteningly rapid. Eccles became so worried that he set up Becks in smaller beer hall roughly where the Cock inn once stood. Determined that whatever the outcome he would not lose all his passing trade. The grand opening of Beck's establishment slowed progress a little and put a slight kink in the road. But still no sign of Tacticus's departure north. The road had now moved on past Becks place and Flavious had just inserted one of the Romans famous anti-ambush bends. Its still there, the first left-hander as you come down the hill from Shipdham. He had just started to turn the road direction back to its original heading when the plan began to come together. Overnight Tacticus withdrew his troops and set off in search of glory!!!

There was a moment of consternation when the very next day a replacement was posted in, but Claudius turned out to be an imbibor of the seventh ilk and soon beat a path (and eventually bade Flavious put in a road) twixt Eccles and Becks places. (Church Road. Ed.) Flavious and he found they had served together in Gaul (France to thee & me) so like old soldiers everywhere, daily sat over a litre or three of Carlsberger's new Special Brew, lying about their conquests. Neither of them took more than a passing interest in the way that Eccles and his co-workers finished the new road exactly according to Baldwick's plan. Straight it wasn't, straight it isn't and straight it never would be.

So we can truly lay blame on Baldwick's head for the Ovington bends, built as they were for altruistic reasons they have been source of irritation ever since.

And Baldwick? He became a planning consultant with the Roman Army in Londinium, eventually retiring to a large, purposely built villa in the area now occupied by Buckingham Palace. Not bad for a privy digger.

Sid

### DON'T FORGET

Hall bookings can be made by contacting:-

**Michelle on 884544.**

**LATEST DATE for acceptance of items for the JULY 'ORACLE' is 21<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2006. earlier if possible**

### How to contact our Editorial Staff

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