

# OVINGTON ORACLE

MARCH 2007

No. 3/07

**WELCOME** to the first Spring edition of your monthly newsletter, I say first of "spring" but the way the seasons run into one another we might discover that by the next edition we are in the middle of a heat wave (please) or there again! – No, let's not think about the alternative. You will see from the following reports that the Village has had a few changes concerning the running of some of our major institutions, otherwise there are no earth shattering developments to talk about. We are still looking for contributions to the Oracle from you, our readers. There must be a story or two hidden away in your mental archives, please share them with us. No names, no pack drill, to quote an ancient military phrase. Look forward to hearing from you. Now read on.

## MARCH DIARY.

Mar 5 <sup>th</sup>	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Mar 7 <sup>th</sup>	Gardening Club	7.45pm
Mar 12 <sup>th</sup>	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Mar 13 <sup>th</sup>	V.H. Comm. meeting	7.30pm
Mar 19 <sup>th</sup>	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Mar 20 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Group	7.30pm
Mar 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BOOK SALE</b>	<b>11am till 2pm</b>
Mar 26 <sup>th</sup>	Bowls Club	1.45pm

All events held in Village Hall.

## NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE HALL.

### 1. BOOK SALE - 24<sup>th</sup> March

The Village Hall has a magnificent collection of books that in spite of their intrinsic value are taking up valuable space in our storeroom. So with great reluctance we are holding a grand book sale on **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 11am – 2pm** in the Village Hall.

As everything **must** go, there are guaranteed to be some bargains amongst the collection and the rumour is that haggling will be encouraged.

Your excitement is anticipated so you will be pleased to know that a restorative cuppa, along with a selection of refreshments will be available throughout the sale. Do come along, browse to your hearts content, and enjoy.

### 2. VILLAGE HALL AGM

The AGM was held, where else, in the Village Hall, on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February, when there was a surprisingly good turnout of members of the existing committee and representatives from other Village organisations.

There was one member of the public!!

The Chair gave a report on the activities over the past year and gave heartfelt thanks to all members for their hard work during that time. She then indicated that she was standing down from the committee, whereupon a vote of thanks for her leadership was proposed and unanimously supported by those present.

This was followed by the treasurer's report, which indicated that income is steady and was at present keeping pace with expenditure and inflationary increases.

The election of a new committee was undertaken with the entire assembly studiously checking the floor for wormholes. However threats and coercion had the desired effect and the following were volunteered to serve for the next twelve months.

Chair	Pending (see below)*
Secretary	Marie Ana Cave
Treasurer	Grace Rumsby (Bowls Club)
Elected.	Richard Akister
"	Sue Mortimer
"	Michelle Prothero

Representatives: -

Parish Council	Rod Rumsby
Gardening Club	Ed Reilly
Ladies Group	Christine Hardy
Church	Pansy Westwood
Breckland Harmony	Christine Reilly

\* As no one was eager, or eligible, for the position it was agreed that the committee at the start of each meeting would decide the Chair for that meeting.

Good news folks, the Village Hall lives to host your social, political, quizzical and other nefarious activities for the next year at least. The departure of Laura from the VH Comm. does leave the oracle in need of a co-editor. So if you have an hour or two to spare each month, and fancy some literary or word processing challenges. Ring 882246.

2.

### 3. QUIZ AND SUPPER EVENING (AKA THE SCOTTON TROPHY)

We know this isn't until Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April but forewarned is forearmed and you will need time to study those encyclopaedias, or search the internet, to prepare for this annual brain teaser quiz.

The quiz requires teams of four to compete for the Trophy.

Supper will be served at the half way point and the cost per person is £6.00. Including supper. Contact Christine on 885848 to book your place.

### 4. THANKS.

The Village Hall committee give their grateful thanks to Harry and Barbara Hicks for their generous donation of kitchen cabinets to replace our old worm eaten ones. Harry and Rod also deserve thanks for fitting the new units, they provide greater storage space and look the bee's knees.

### 5. FEBRUARY LOTTERY RESULTS.

Michelle Prothero	No. 46	£10.00
Roy Abbs	No. 20	£ 5.00
Terry Rand	No. 17	£ 5.00

There is still time to join in the Lottery, the annual fee is now reduced to an all time low of just **£10.00 for ten entries** into the draw. Call in to see Grace at No 31 The Street for details, or ring on 882246. Money for old rope really.

### WELCOME.

We offer a warm welcome to:

Liz, Warren, Rhianne and Joseph who have recently moved into Carbrooke Road also Ann and Clive who are moving in to The Street. We look forward to getting to know you at some of our social occasions

### RAINFALL FOR JANUARY 2007.

January 2007	102mm or 4.08"
January 2006	19.5mm or 0.78"
January 1997	15mm or 0.6"

We did say last month that January seemed to have excess precipitation. It rained on 18 days. Thanks again to Ted for these figures.

### BUS PASSES

BDC are laying on extra staff to cope with the demand for bus passes for the over sixties, which are due for renewal by the end of March. The venue for renewal or to claim a bus pass is in Wayland House in Watton (old Police Station) the times are as follows: -

Wednesday's 9.30am to 2.30pm  
Friday 9.30am to 2.30pm

### LADIES GROUP

For the February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Ladies were treated to a demonstration and talk on the History of Lace making by two lovely ladies, Christine and Anne from the Wayland Lace makers.

They made a complicated process look so easy and interesting. Everyone agreed that it was a most enjoyable and educational event.

Our grateful thanks go to these two talented ladies.

### March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

This meeting to be held in the Village Hall will have as the speaker, Pat Reetz from the Fire Brigade.

(Did I hear someone say, "Go to blazes"?)

Connie Springford  
Sec. Ovington Ladies Group.

### GARDENING CLUB.

With a forecast of heavy snow we were delighted to have a talk from Trevor Harrison from South Creake Nursery, who brought along a colourful collection of spring bulbs, Hellebore and Primula to cheer us up.

Mr. Harrison had stepped in at the last minute when Mr. Terry Rand had to cancel his planned talk due to health reasons, we wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr. Harrison also brought along some unusual shrubs that would make a spectacular show later in the season. We all enjoyed the talk and were happy to buy some spring colour to take home.

Next month we have another change to the programme, Barry Gayton is giving a talk entitled "Weird & Wonderful" on Wednesday March 7<sup>th</sup>.

A talk on container and hanging baskets from Peter Chinery will be our talk on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

New members always welcome

Jenny

### DEFENCE ESTATES WARNING.

During 1<sup>st</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> April all Stanta ranges will be in use, simulated artillery and mortar fire will increase noise levels.

Tracked vehicles will be in use in the Bodney area. March will see fast jets traversing the area at low level, and Watton will have helicopter and C130 aircraft using the airfield on a daily basis.

**CHURCH NEWS****CHURCH SERVICES FOR MARCH**

<b>March 4<sup>th</sup></b>		No service
<b>March 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9am</b>	Parish Communion
Lessons.		Mr. C. Springford. Mr. R. Akister
Steward.		Mrs. P. Westwood
<b>March 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am.</b>	Mothering Sunday
Lessons.		Mrs. P. Westwood Mrs. A. Johnson.
Steward.		Mrs. B. Hicks
<b>March 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9am</b>	Parish Communion
Lessons.		Mr. D. Pritchard. Mrs. A. Johnson
Steward.		Mr. D. Pritchard.
No flowers during Lent		

Please Note on the 18<sup>th</sup> for Mothering Sunday the service will be at 9.30am, when there will be the distribution of posies. After the service there will be coffee / tea and Simnel cake.

Most of you know that Mrs. Pansy Westwood has been the sole member of the Parochial Church Council for some time. It has been brought to our notice that a new member of the PCC has been appointed hopefully lightening the load on Pansy's shoulders.

Ovington Church's financial state is also giving rise for concern and to address this problem a meeting was held after the service on 25<sup>th</sup> February. Report follows.

The Rev. Jane Atkins first explained the changes that are taking place in the organisation of the local Churches. The Churches of Ashill, Saham Toney, Ovington and Carbrooke will be united in a new Benefice, whilst Watton will become a Benefice in its own right. All the Churches will work together as a group much the same as they did under previous arrangements.

With regards to the financial problems affecting Ovington Church, Rev. Jane said that the costs of running the Church were just over £6000 per annum, whilst the income from various sources amounted to around £2000. It was hoped that the costs for ground maintenance would be minimal this year due to the Friends of Ovington Church undertaking this work, but it still left an unacceptable deficit. Discussion thereafter produced some ideas for attracting people into the Church building, making the Church more user-friendly (warmer), combining the facilities of the Village Hall and Church to enable more ambitious fund raising activities to be held. More importantly the emphasis must be on people, people to become involved with the day to day running of the Church, people to man the Church other than on Sundays, to allow visitors

access to the Church for whatever reason. People to be on hand before and after Church services to welcome everyone into what we all agreed was one of the Counties most attractive and peaceful buildings.

It was agreed that other avenues should be explored to seek alternative funding for the upkeep of the Church.

After over 900 years of good and faithful service to the Village folk of Ovington it would be a truly sad day if the Church had to be closed.

**PARISH COUNCIL.**

Was the choice of date for the last meeting a touch ill advised one might ask? Who picked Valentines evening? All (well two actually) fingers pointed to the Chair who openly declared his ability to take the blame for just about anything that happens.

One absent Councillor was being wooed with bright lights and an endless supply of good food; another was playing with a didgeridoo, so the council was just able to form the necessary quorum.

The district councillor and one member of the public were also in attendance.

The agenda was fortunately light so good progress was made with the routine items.

The Chair read out a report on a public meeting with the Police Authority attended by Councillor Chris Lewis. The authority seemingly not particularly interested in the points raised from the floor, but more intent in raising the Police portion of the Counties budget to higher levels than local councils desired.

The District Councillor, who also attended' confirmed what Councillor Lewis had reported. The Chair raised the matter of Breckland Local Development Framework, which is currently being drawn up. This plan, if accepted by central government, would have a marked effect on the local area, mainly in the increased numbers of homes that central government require to be built in this region.

You might be interested to pop along to the Wayland Partnership Offices (old Police Station) on Wed **March 21<sup>st</sup>** where the people drawing up these plans are having an open forum for the public to present their ideas and comment on the proposals. The plans will be on view and the forum will be open from 10am to 7pm. We would advise you to go and have a look.

Points raised by the public at the PC meeting were the increase in heavy traffic proceeding along Carbrooke Road, the unsatisfactory method of digging out the roadside drainage gurgles and the tree branches deposited in roadside ditches and verges along Church road. The Chair said he would contact the authorities concerned.

### Parish Elections

The local Parish Council elections will be held in the Village Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. The PC is still looking for at least three people with an interest in the Village to come forward.

Contact John Goode on 889342

Or Rod Rumsby on 882246 for further details.

Breckland District Council are running workshops to help anyone find out more about what being a Parish Councillor involves.

These are being held locally on :-

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March, at County Hall Norwich.

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March, at BDC offices Dereham.

The workshops start at 7.30pm with refreshments, finishing around 9pm.

### LITTER PICK DAY.

Following on from last years successful tidy up around the Village, Rod has been inundated with requests for a repeat performance of his dare devil ditch diving demonstration.

He has declined this kind invitation but is willing to organise another morning of litter picking.

**March 31<sup>st</sup>** seemed like a splendid day for it and once again Hi Vis jackets, refuse sacks, litter pickers, gloves et al. will be available, (courtesy Ovington Parish Council). Meet by the Village sign at 10am on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Once again it is hoped to provide a warming drink and the odd savoury kitchen scrap to rejuvenate the inner man / woman afterwards.

"This will be a morning of such fun that you will want to do it every week"

. Sez Rod, ever the optimist he.

### SPELL CHECKER.

Eye have a spelling chequer

It came with my pea sea

It plainly marks four my revue

Miss Steaks eye kin knot sea

Eye strike a quay and type a word

And weight four it two say

Weather eye am wrong oar write

It shows me strait a weigh

As soon as a mist ache is maid

It nose bee fore two long

And eye can put the error rite

Its rare lea ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it

I am shore yaw pleased two no

Its letter-perfect awl the weigh

My cheque tolled me sew.

Anon.

### LOST AND FOUND

FOUND along Saham Road one silver bracelet.  
Contact 885848

LOST. One cream coloured Cockatiel, escaped from Bleinham Close in Watton. Seen briefly in Ovington a day or two later but has since disappeared again. Any sightings or capture please contact 882246.

Well ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys that is it for this month. It does seem that all organisations within our small community are crying out for support, whether it be to give a little time on a committee or just be a seat warmer at some of the many and varied functions provided here in Ovington. Is the old Tee Vee so un-missable these days?

We would love to know your thoughts and/or ideas on what's needed in Ovington. Don't say a pub, that idea has been kicked around for many a year, ---- unless of course you'd like to open one up (please).

Ed.

**DEADLINE:** for next month's publication is 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2007

**Village Hall Bookings contact:-  
Michelle on 884544**

**To contact the editors of The Oracle**

Christine at Saham Road	885848
Grace. 31 The Street	882246

**Concert – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 7.45pm**

Everyone is invited to come and hear the

Norfolk Millennium Male Voice Choir at

The Methodist Church, High Street, Watton .

It will cost you £5.00 to include tea and biscuits.