

# OVINGTON ORACLE

APRIL 2007

No. 4/07

## Hi everyone.

Don't the daffodils look great this year? We moan about what the Parish Council fails to do for us (what me? never) but we have to compliment them on their planting policy, those golden corridors leading into the village certainly offer us a warm welcome home after a days toil.

Flowers of most varieties have an attraction all their own, we just hope you are not so attracted that you may be tempted to give dear old Mum a treat and a pick a bunch of the roadside blooms. No, you wouldn't do that, would you?

Talking of the Parish Council, you may have heard that local elections are scheduled to take place on **May 3<sup>rd</sup>**, and rumour has it that there are enough nominees in Ovington this year to give you all a chance to vote on the folk you think will give their all for Ovington over the next four years. Do not waste this opportunity to elect the council you want. So, let us have a look at what's been happening during March and get a preview of delights yet to come.

## APRIL DIARY.

April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bowls Club	1.45pm
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	Gardening Club	7.45pm
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council	7.30pm
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Scotton Trophy Quiz	7.30pm
April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Bowls Club	1.45pm
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Group	7.45pm
April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Bowls Club	1.45pm
April 30 <sup>th</sup>	Bowls Club	1.45pm

All events held in the Village Hall

## MARCH LOTTERY WINNERS.

Ann Akister	No. 12	£10
Rosemary Angell	No. 34	£10
Chris Lewis	No. 9	£ 5
Roy Abbs	No. 20	£ 5

## BOWLS CLUB.

Meets every Monday afternoon at 1.45pm. Always looking for fresh blood says Dennis (Bit worried about that blood bit Dennis) Seriously tho' they are a nice bunch of bowlers and really enjoy teasing their woods along the carpet, when they are not teasing each other.

## SCOTTON TROPHY

The brainteaser of the year will be held this year in the Village Hall on **April 14<sup>th</sup>**, which this year falls on a Saturday.

One of the most popular events in the calendar for this year will have, as its re-fuelling stop, a buffet style supper. Our long time favourite Fish & Chip man has retired. Gone, in fact, to a better place. (Who writes this stuff?)[Don't know, but they are a *dab hand* at the corny jokes! – ed.]

The format for the quiz itself is the same as previous years. Teams of four from all sections of the local community will attempt to answer a series of questions on varying subjects, culminating in the team with the most points being awarded the coveted Scotton Trophy. Teas & coffee will be on tap during the supper break but should you need a stronger beverage to enhance the operation of the grey cells, then you are more than welcome to bring your own booze.

Team spaces are limited so book your table soonest from **Christine on 885848.**

## VILLAGE HALL HAPPENINGS.

A recent meeting of the new management committee decided that some of the minor maintenance tasks could be carried out in house, but that professional help would be required to revamp the toilets to ensure they meet current regulations. It was hoped that grants might be available to subsidise the costs involved, otherwise a program of intensive fundraising will have to be initiated. Any one know of a skilled brickie in the village by any chance?

## GARDENING CLUB.

For the confirmed composters among you there will be a meeting of the club on **Wednesday April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.45pm.**

Where the subject of the talk will be, "Containers and Hanging baskets" The speaker will be Peter Chinery from Peter Beales Roses.

The answers lie in the soil. Visitors are always welcome.

## CHURCH NEWS

This month, extra services have been included at St John's Ovington, in order to cover the Easter period.

On Sunday **April 1<sup>st</sup>** we are having the Palm Sunday service at **9.00am** where Palm Crosses will be distributed to all who attend.

On **Good Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>** there will be a service of prayer and meditation at **2.00pm** and our **Easter Day service on April 8<sup>th</sup>** will be at **9.00am**.

Our congregation, like our Village, is only small, but we always offer a warm welcome to anyone who joins us.

### Revd Jane writes: -

One day a man went to visit a church. He arrived early, parked the car and got out. Another car pulled up next to him and the driver said, "I always park there, you've taken my place"

The visitor went inside for the service, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the congregation approached him and said, "That's my seat. You took my place!" The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

As the service began, the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them and the visitor stood up as if to speak to them. As he stood, his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?"

The visitor replied, "*I took your place*"  
Easter is celebrated because Christians use this time to give thanks that Jesus died, but is risen. His dying shows us that he loves us so much, he was prepared to suffer the most excruciating pain and ultimate crucifixion, in order that we will not be condemned to permanent death, but that we too may rise with him. John's Gospel says "In my father's house are many rooms...and I am going to prepare a place for you"

So this Easter, you will find, in Churches across the world, the acclamation, "Alleluia, Christ is risen" and the response, "He is risen indeed, Alleluia"

Our congregation and I wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Revd Jane Atkins  
St. John's Church,  
Ovington.

## FRIENDS OF OVINGTON CHURCH.

A small but select body of volunteers have made a start on taming the verdant pastures surrounding the church. Sam is in the process of formulating a rota for grass cutting throughout the growing season, so that everybody gets a crack at controlling the effective, but occasionally errant, mower. It was gratifying to be told by a younger member of our community on the way home on Saturday, that the grounds looked splendid and could he help out the next time the Friends congregated. He will be welcomed, as will any helpers.

## THE PERILS OF ANNO DOMINI.

Three retirees, each with impaired hearing, were playing golf one fine March day.

One remarked to the other

"Windy, isn't it?"

"No" the second man replied, "its Thursday"

The third man chimed in,

"So am I. Let's have a beer"

## WELCOME.

We offer a warm Ovington welcome to **Mike and Linda** who recently arrived in The Street. Look forward to seeing you around the village and at many of our much-vaunted social occasions.

Also the same greetings to **Tony, Heather and Nathan** who are joining the 'Elite in the Street', Tony is probably known to many of you through his recent gardening and landscaping enterprises in Ovington.

We also welcome back to warm and sunny Norfolk, **Roy and Rosemary**, who have been suffering from blizzards and hypothermia somewhere in the tropics for the past month or two. Hard life.

Congratulations to John and Christine on the safe arrival of their No 1 grandson.

Weighing in at 8lb 3oz (in old money) we welcome, and send our good wishes to, young Jared.

## RAINFALL FOR FEBRUARY

Feb 2007	78.5 mm or 3.14"
Feb 2006	51.0 mm or 2.04"
Feb 1997	54.75mm or 2.19"

Thanks again to Ted Bowman for his accurate readings, bit wetter this year it would seem.

## FREE (ALMOST) TO A GOOD HOME.

Five separate, high quality Tapley 33 modular units of dining or living room furniture, in a deep burgundy colour, with built in discrete lighting.

Excellent condition.

These are surplus to requirements and the vendor, in a most public-spirited manner, asks only that a small donation be made to village hall funds.

For details ring 01953 889165.

(Ed's note: - New, these would set you back around £1k. ————— bargain???)

## LADIES GROUP

March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting – Mr Pat Reetz from the Watton Fire Station entertained us royally with details of a working day in the life of a fireman and the intensive training programme they have to experience before qualifying as a fire fighter. It was most enlightening and comforting to know we have such a brave group of volunteers who are prepared to put their lives at risk to ensure our safety.

Pat invited our group of ladies to visit the fire station at a later date ... so watch this space! We thank Pat sincerely for a most interesting and informative evening.

### April 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting

The next meeting is on April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Village Hall and the speaker will be Diane Cuthbert on the subject of Keep Fit.

If any of the ladies in the village would like to join us they would be made most welcome.

Connie Springford

Secretary, Ovington Ladies Group

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear editors.

Please will you put in your next edition this piece about bonfires.

Would the person / persons who have bonfires in their gardens try and have them when the wind blows the smoke away from other gardens, especially when there is washing hanging on the line. Better still, light them later in the day, when the washing has been taken in. I had to do my washing twice over on five different days over the past few weeks because it smelt of smoke.

A little bit of thought before you light up please.

(Name and address supplied)

## OVINGTON HITS THE HEADLINES AGAIN

We would draw your attention to a special edition of the Wayland news that has just hit the streets. This is so special that it will cost you £1, and it is available from the Watton newsagents, Edwards.

We wholly recommend it to you as a great read, especially as there is a full-page article about Ovingtons narrow escape from a potentially disastrous air crash near Water End Farm.

Should you have difficulty in getting to Watton, or don't have the time to shop, then contact the Oracle and we will arrange a delivery at no extra charge, apart from the quid for the paper itself.

A good deal or what?



## JAZZ at the QUEENS

A must for all lovers of jazz and swing music. Listen and dance to: -

### Just Jazz

at the Queens Hall Watton on Friday April 27<sup>th</sup>  
Doors open at 7.00pm.

Continuous bar, Raffle, all for only £10 per head including buffet.

Tickets available from Amys in the High Street or The Town Council offices.

Proceeds to Citizens Advice Bureau.

## CELEBRATE EARTH HOUR



On Saturday March 31<sup>st</sup>, you are being asked that between 7.30 & 8.30pm you turn off **all lights, TV's, DVD players, sound systems, computers (at the plug) etc.** It is ok to leave on fridges and freezers. This will make Ovington the greenest village in the UK, this plan thus far is unique. The idea comes from the Australian world Wildlife organisation, more information at.

[www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org)

Participation is voluntary, there will be no authoritarian patrols in the village.

Let Jeremy Woods know if you are participating on 01953 883953 or e-mail [Jeremy@uktraining.uk.com](mailto:Jeremy@uktraining.uk.com)

## PARISH COUNCIL.

Having had a sneak preview of the editorial comments at the beginning of this issue I feel the ladies have pre-empted the issues the PC. wished to raise.

We are pleased to report that there are a few more nominations for Parish Council places this year, which means that not only will you have the exciting prospect of voting for your favourite District Councillor. You will have the unenviable task of choosing up to five nominees who you think will be able fill positions on the Parish Council.

Next month we hope to have a list of the candidate's names and will give a brief profile of each one to aid your choice. If, in the meantime, you see someone walking the streets offering to kiss you, or shake your baby's hand then you are in the presence of someone determined to make it big in local politics. At the risk of labouring (no political agenda intended there) the point, we do urge you to stroll up to the Village Hall on **May 3<sup>rd</sup>** between **7am – 10pm** and cast your vote, doesn't hurt a bit, costs nothing and could change your, or someone's, life beyond all recognition.

There is a Parish Council meeting on **Wednesday April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm**, which is a golden opportunity for all prospective candidates and members of the public to come along and witness democracy in action.

## LITTER PICK.

The annual litter pick will go ahead as planned, starting from the Village sign on **Saturday March 31<sup>st</sup>**, try and be there by **10.00am** if you want to help polish up the village environs.

A risk assessment has been carried out and the water in the ditches is low enough not to endanger those amongst us who insist on diving in!!!!

Picking sticks, Hi-Vis jackets, gloves and refuse sacks are provided, so all we need is bodies, preferably live ones.

Don't forget the extravagant, post pick up, nosh, in the Village Hall from 11.30 onwards.

## \*\*\* STOP PRESS\*\*\*

"Hey Fred, did you hear that"

"Wot?"

"She said we're gotta stop the press"

"Why?"

"I dunno, but we'd better stop it"

"Woffor?"

Editor. "**Just do it you fools**"

"Yes Ma'am"

## BOOK SALE.

This sale turned out to be an outstanding success. Most of the books displayed were sold, (or read on the spot) there was a fine repast for the undernourished.

There were those who, inspired by the literary offerings, were motivated to hypothesize on the failings of society today, and thereby put the world to rights.

Actually it was quite an enjoyable way to raise funds for the Village Hall.

Thanks must go to the troupe of willing volunteers, who laid the books out, honed their sales techniques, fed and watered the congregated masses, and cleared up afterwards. Good effort Ladies and Gents.

## BRECKLAND HARMONY

For anyone new to the village, Breckland Harmony is a group of ladies who love singing and rehearse every Monday evening in the Village Hall from 7.30-9.30pm. We are currently increasing our repertoire to include songs from the 60s, Beatles and Abba hits, along with classics by Cole Porter. Our concerts for this year have been booked as follows:

7 July St Mary's Church, Watton

6 Oct Wayland Hall (for RAFA)

15 Dec Ovington Church

plus an appearance on June 10<sup>th</sup> at Great Ellingham Methodist Church.

We have great fun singing (as well as the occasional social event) and would welcome new members.

Come along and find out all about us.

## VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Contact our Michelle on 01953 884544

to reserve your place for that special occasion.

Special rates for Ovington mates.

Don't forget the deadline for next month's contributions to the Oracle is **April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2007**.

Your contributions to the Oracle in the form of stories, letters, jokes etc. are always welcomed, just send them to the ink stained ladies listed. (See below)

**Editorial Staff are, and can be contacted at, Christine at Saham Road 885848**

**Grace at 31 The Street 882246**

You can always e-mail the editorial staff @ [kestle@supanet.com](mailto:kestle@supanet.com) if you are on line.

Failing that they have a warm and cosy pigeon loft with all mod cons for those of you steeped in traditional means of communication.