

# OVINGTON ORACLE

MAY 2007

No. 5/07

We at the inky finger end of this newsletter have been advised that as our society is becoming more cosmopolitan over time, we must ensure you all get the greeting with which you are familiar, we shall therefore dispense with the ubiquitous "Hi" or "Hello", substituting such with, for instance, "Ee oop Lad" or "Yachi Da" even "Wotcha Mate" similarly "G'day" or if you are local "How yer gittin on tergether".

Whatever, we are glad to have the opportunity to welcome you to this late spring edition of our Newsletter.

We would like to welcome into our editorial team a recent arrival in Ovington, Liz Curley. Brave lady is going to put finger to keyboard, or pen to paper. Or better still; carry out spell checks on some of our musings.

Don't forget to VOTE on May 3<sup>rd</sup> it's only a short walk to the Village Hall, make your vote count. More about this under the "Parish Council" heading.

## MAY DIARY.

May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Local Elections	7am to 10pm
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	Bowls Club	1.45pm
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	Pre-fete meeting	7.30pm
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Parish AGM	7.30pm
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Group Dinner*	
May 12 <sup>th</sup>	Garden Club open garden Ashill*	
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Bowls Club	1.45pm
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Group	7.30pm
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	Bowls Club	1.45pm
May 28 <sup>th</sup>	Bowls Club	1.45pm

All events held in Village Hall, except where annotated \*

## SCOTTON TROPHY QUIZ.

There was much debate and scratching of heads at the Village Hall on Saturday night as the annual quiz teased the distantly stored facts from the memory banks of twelve intrepid teams. Without too much bloodshed the "Bakers 4", a well-known local team, eventually claimed the prize and everyone departed full of good humour and a wonderful buffet supper. The evening was declared an outstanding success, with monies raised going to Village Hall funds. A special thanks must go to Christine and Ed, for their work in devising the questions and organising the evening. A mention must be made too of the dedicated group of volunteers beavering away behind the scenes to ensure everything ran smoothly. Roll on next year.

## PRE FETE MEETING

Flushed with success, following the quiz evening, the team are preparing for their Summer Venture, the **Grand Fete**, destined to take place on Saturday **June 16<sup>th</sup>**.

Needless to say this event does not just happen, a bit of forethought and planning is needed, not forgetting the arm twisting and bribery to entice folk to give up their precious time to help.

To start it all off there will be an initial planning meeting in the Village Hall on **May 8<sup>th</sup>** starting at **7.30pm**. Please come along if you feel you want to be part of this momentous occasion, new ideas, suggestions, offers of help, are always welcome. If you are not able to come to the meeting, but think you could help out with the preparation, or be there to assist on the day, then please let a committee member know. We did publish a list of members an edition or so back, but to simplify matters all of the editorial team are in some way connected with the Village Hall so give them a call. Their details are located on the last page of this edition.

To be honest, and speaking from a lifetime's experience (it just seems that way really) of participating in this event, its not so much graft as grins. See you there-----please.

## APRIL LOTTERY WINNERS.

1 <sup>st</sup>	£10	No 48	Eileen Gammon
2 <sup>nd</sup>	£5	No 49	Roger Kennaugh
3 <sup>rd</sup>	£5	No 41	Nic Sproston

## GARDENING CLUB.

The club are meeting over the summer months at various localities within the area, to see at first hand the different ways of achieving the dream garden. Their first get together is more in the way of a social and fund-raising gathering in Brian & Carol's garden. "Tamarisk" 8 The Meres.

Hale Road. Ashill on **Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup>**, **10am to 12noon.**

This will be a coffee morning with plants and cakes for sale, a raffle will also be held.

## RAINFALL FOR MARCH 2007.

March 2007	53.25mm or 2.13"
March 2006	51mm or 2"
March 1997	18.5mm or 0.74"

Thanks again Ted, look forward to seeing what the figures for April will be. Seems a touch dry to me.

## CHURCH NEWS

### THANK YOU

A big thank you to the congregation of St John the Evangelist and 'Friends of the Church' for their kind donations to Pansy's Easter bouquet given in thanks for her tireless work as Churchwarden, secretary, treasurer, sides person, flower arranger and the 1001 other jobs she does including tea maker.

Everyone was so generous we were able to give Pansy, not only a beautiful bouquet but also a blue planter filled with flowers.

Barbara Hicks

Have you noticed how good the churchyard is looking? Many thanks to the Friends of Ovington Church. The cowslips are beginning to flower.

Pansy.

### Church Rota for May

May 6 <sup>th</sup>	No Service at Ovington
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	9am Parish Communion
Lessons	Mr C Springford Mrs B Hicks
Steward	Mrs B Hicks
Flowers	Mrs C Springford
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	6pm Evensong
Lesson	Mrs P Westwood
Steward	Mrs P Westwood
Flowers	Mrs P Westwood
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	9am Parish Communion
Lesson	Mr R Akister Mrs P Westwood
Steward	Mr R Akister
Flowers	Mrs A Akister

## CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

At the annual meeting Mrs P Westwood and Mrs B Hicks were elected Churchwardens and Mr R Akister as Treasurer.

Welcome aboard Barbara and Richard.

## FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

The Church grounds have been cut again and are looking neat and tidy. A selection of wild flowers are already appearing on the wildlife area, hopefully with more to come. Areas of bare earth, revealed when the hedges were cut back last year have been raked over and seeded, all we need is a nice gentle overnight rain to get the little seeds shuffling around and start to grow. More grass to cut though.

### Pause for thought: -

What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

Or

When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

## LADIES GROUP.

### April 7<sup>th</sup> Cheese & Wine.

The cheese and wine evening held at the home of Christine and John Hardy, was a great success. Despite it being a holiday weekend, there was a good turnout with over thirty members, partners and friends attending – and making a healthy contribution to the first of our fundraising evenings this year.

Our sincere thanks go to Christine and John for allowing us to invade their lovely home; for moving their Wedding Anniversary celebrations and for their kind hospitality on the night.

### April Ladies Group Meeting.

This turned out to be a fun meeting with Chris Springford who took time out of a very busy schedule to give us an impromptu "interactive" evening. Chris stepped in at the last minute when the guest speaker originally booked was unable to attend. He challenged us to remember incidents and happenings in years gone by – some so long ago that many of us would rather not admit to having been around at that time. He also held us collectively responsible for allowing the world population to increase from around 1 billion in 1900 to over 6.5 billion today! Thanks again Chris!

### Ladies Annual Dinner.

This year's annual dinner will be held at the Waggon & Horses in Griston at 7.30pm on May 11<sup>th</sup>

Those who have requested transport to and from the event will be notified of the details during next week.

Connie Springford. Sec.

### May - Ladies Group Meeting.

May 15<sup>th</sup> 7.45pm the speaker will be Joanne Allen.

The subject "Colour me Beautiful".

## NEW ARRIVAL.

We are sure you will join us in giving a very warm welcome to little Isabella Scott, who has recently joined our community, weighing in we are told at 7lbs 3ozs (we have not quite got round to introducing our babies in kilo's yet it seems). Congratulations to Mum Kelly & Dad Sam, who have been proudly parading their little lady around the village.

All the nominees for Parish Council elections have been queuing up to kiss the baby, a sure way of ensuring at least one vote!!

### Creep: -

A quick-witted husband, on being accused by his wife of forgetting her birthday, replied. "How do you expect me to remember, when you never look any older?"

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS AND VIEWS.

There was something of a record at the last Parish Council meeting. No, it was not that no one went to sleep, but there was a public turn out of more than four times the norm.

The councillors, performers all, responded to an audience and whipped through the agenda in just over the hour. So, two records broken in one evening. The District and Norfolk County Councillor attended, as he nearly always does, and was able to advise on matters not normally within the Parish remit.

Under finance, approval was given for payment of membership to The NAPATC, and for the acquisition of the tools and equipment necessary for the litter pick.

Correspondence included two letters objecting to the planning appeal in Redhill Lane.

This matter will be considered by BDC in the near future and the objections will be forwarded to that Planning Department.

At the close of the meeting the Chairman thanked Councillors Laura Sproston and David Carr, who are standing down from the Parish Council, for their service and support during the councils current sessions.

### Election: - May 3<sup>rd</sup> 7am – 10pm

For the first time in many years, there have been sufficient nominees for the Parish Council to call for an election.

The following persons have been nominated:

Janet Armstrong,	Stuart Burgess,
Reginald Farmer,	John Hardy,
John Hill	Christopher Lewis *
Hugh McKay *	Gordon North
Rodney Rumsby *	Jeremy Woods

\* Current Parish Councillors

The current Parish Council are of the opinion that ALL nominees are deserving of a seat on the council, although there are places for only five.

The fact that the nominees have put their names forward is an indication that they are all dedicated to ensuring Ovingtons future is sustainable and forward looking.

Voting takes little effort and it is not a waste of time, your local councillors are not remote like MP's, they all live in the village, they are all approachable, they will listen to your concerns and act upon them where they are able. Lets face it, their aims and ideas are probably the same as yours, they are on your side. As a matter of interest Breckland are introducing a new method of counting the votes this year. The old way of having upwards of sixty people shuffling through the ballot papers is being superseded by a computerised system, which apparently, is more accurate and much quicker.

The current Parish Council Chairman has witnessed a demonstration of the system and in his opinion (huh) it appeared to be foolproof and free from the inaccuracies inherent in the manual system. We gotta move with the times folks.

**Annual Parish Meeting** will take place on the **9<sup>th</sup> May 2007, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

This is open to all Parishioners and is your chance to air your views, make comments or complaints. All Village organisations are invited to attend, where a short report on your activities over the past year and aims for next would be most welcome.

A short Parish Council AGM will follow this meeting, where the new councillors elect their Chairman and Vice Chairman for the coming year. This is usually a brief meeting, but with the prospect of an entirely new council after the elections, it may take our overburdened but ever constant Clerk a while to whip them into shape.

Final Plea: - **PLEASE VOTE.**

### LITTER PICK.

The last day of March dawned bright and sunny, which ensured that there was a good turn out of willing volunteers eager to clean up Ovington and each determined to out-pick each other. It was quite surprising how much discarded rubbish lurked in the hedges and ditches around our green and pleasant land.

The opportunity was taken to remove the unsightly branches left in the ditch along Church Road by contractors repairing the power cables. Rod thanks everyone for their efforts especially Daphne & Lyndia who acted above and beyond the call of duty and thoroughly cleaned along the A1075 towards Watton. The repast in the Hall afterwards was most welcome and for that, thanks must go to the able catering staff.

One thing about Ovington, whatever is going on you can depend on there being a good nosh up somewhere along the line.

Thanks again everybody.

### Retirement; what you need to know.

Question: -

Why are retiree's so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?

Answer: -

They know as soon as they do one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.

### Lexophilia

A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.

### **This is SO true**

"Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, wine in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming, "WOO HOO what a ride"

### **DOG FOULING.**

Message from Breckland Street Scene.

Complaints received by BDC each year centre around "dog fouling" where owners allow their dogs to foul public places and fail to clean up the mess. The whole of Breckland has been declared a "poop scoop" area under the "Dogs (Fouling of Land) act 1996" This act applies to ALL land to which the public have access. If the person in charge of the dog does not clear up the fouling they are guilty of an offence.

We can give a fixed penalty notice (£50), which if not paid within 14 days, will result in prosecution leading to fines up to £1000.

Contact Breckland Dog Warden on 01362 656299 if you witness anyone committing an offence under this act. Let us keep the Breckland area pleasant for all to use.

(Ed. The changes mean that all roads, verges, footpaths, bridleways, parks, play areas, sports pitches, even field gateways are declared poop scoop areas, and dog fouling thereon is an offence if not cleared up.)

### **STANTA ACTIVITIES MAY/JUNE 07.**

During the period 27<sup>th</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> June, operational training will involve use of all ranges. High explosives will be in use to simulate artillery and mortar fire. This will lead to increased noise levels at times.

Throughout June 81mm mortars will be fired by day and night. No times available.

During June fast jets will be making low passes over Stanta, helicopters will be used extensively in support of ground troops, which may result in them remaining in the hover for long periods of time. Watton will continue to be used by C130's and helicopters on a daily basis. The area will be in heavy use during the period 7 to 10 May for a large airborne exercise.

### **SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS.**

Those of you who read the EDP might have observed that amongst the celebrities featured in the Watton Ladies Hockey team, was our own Sarah Cave. Sarah was recently named as man (?) of the match when Watton began their climb to reach the final of the H. A. Trophy. Congratulations to Sarah on her gamesmanship, hopefully we will be able to report on a win for Watton, and Ovington, in the near future. Watch this space!

### **FOR SALE.**

Good home wanted for a fold up "Z Bed" It has a sturdy tubular steel frame and includes a 5" thick mattress, 6ft by 2ft 6" A donation for Village Hall funds would be appreciated. Contact 01953 881081 for details.

### **RECYCLING**

I sometimes feel guilty for all the things I put in the bin that could be used again. When I think about all the rubbish in landfills, I am safe in the knowledge that I recycle as much as I can. However, there are some things someone might use, perfectly good items that I no longer need. I tried selling on Ebay and was quite successful. These days I haven't the time to photograph, list, wait for the auctions to end, clear the money and then post the item. Prices are often not worth it.

I was intrigued when a friend suggested Freecycle. You join a local group (Breckland has 1200 members) and then if you have items to get rid of, post an email on the notice board and see what happens. I've seen some strange things offered, horse jumps, broken firebricks and old bottles to name a few. I picked up a new microwave for a friend and some dressing up clothes for my children. The one drawback is you need a Yahoo account. Although it's free and only takes 5 - 10 mins to set up, it would put some people off. Have a look and see what YOU think, the Website is [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org) I personally like it and find it very useful, but I'll let you decide. **Liz**

### **POLYSTYRENE.**

Take note this must NOT be put into the recycling (black) bin. The bin men will remove it and not being tidy minded like the rest of us, will leave it at the roadside to just blow around our village.

**Village Hall Bookings:** Please contact Michelle 01953 884 544

**Deadline Day for the June issue of 'The Oracle' is May 21<sup>st</sup> 2007.**

### **To contact us: -**

Christine at Saham Road	Tel 885848
Grace at 31 The Street	Tel 882246
Liz Curley, Ceda Cottage, <a href="mailto:lizcurley1@yahoo.co.uk">lizcurley1@yahoo.co.uk</a>	

### **"STOP PRESS"**

Sadly the result of the H. A. final did not go Watton's way they lost to London club, "Tulse Hill & Dulwich," 3 - 1. Which is sad after they played so hard to get into the final. Well done though girls, it'll be a piece of cake next year, you'll see.