

OVINGTON ORACLE

NOVEMBER 2007

11/07

Well hello and here we are again.

We had an e-mail the other day from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust who are currently searching for the largest trees in Norfolk.

To qualify the tree must have a big enough circumference so that two people in tree hugging mode are not able to join hands around the trunk. Now we are sure you know of many mature trees in the village that meet that criteria, so go out with a friend and hug a tree or two, then let us know where the big-uns are and we will pass this vital information on to the NWT. We can think of two conveniently situated, prominent trees that will surely pass the stretchy, huggy test, so go for it Ovington.

NOVEMBER EVENTS DAIRY

Tues Oct 30th	Pre-Bazaar meeting	7.30pm
Thurs Nov 1 st	Parish Council	7.30pm
Sat 3rd	Supper Evening	7 for 7.30pm
Mon 5 th	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Wed 7 th	Gardening Club.	7.45pm
Mon 12 th	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Mon 19 th	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Tues 20 th	Ladies Group	7.45pm
Mon 26 th	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Sat Dec 1st	Christmas Bazaar	12 to 3pm

All events held in Village Hall, except where indicated.

WHAT IS ON THE HORIZON?

The first item where we are looking for a huge turnout is for the **PRE BAZAAR** meeting on **October 30th 7.30pm** in the Village Hall.

We have said it before and we will say it again if you do want to come along don't hold back in fear of getting lumbered with an array of arduous jobs, you won't be, unless you want to of course, but we hope in the first instance to pick your brains for ideas on how to do different this year. If you are unable to come to the meeting and have some new ideas, please let us know. To those of you who are already committed to helping out we shall be looking to organise the format for the day including setting up during the morning.

SUPPER EVENING –

November 3rd 7pm for 7.30pm prompt.
Just one or two tickets (£6 each) left; give Christine a ring now on 885848.

Grub to die for, coupled with fine company, what more could one ask.

SILENT AUCTION

We reported briefly in last months Oracle that the aforementioned auction failed to realise its full potential.

The final outcome, thanks in no small way to the sale of the scrumptious range of refreshments, did at least cover the costs and add a few pounds to the Village Hall coffers. Again, thanks to those bidders / buyers for your support.

Big thanks also to the small army of volunteers who laboured away for the whole two days, day one: - setting up, day two: - waiting for custom and then clearing up.

POPPY APPEAL

Don't forget Pansy and Sheila will be collecting during daylight hours starting on **27th October** for the Poppy Appeal.

Please give generously and wear your poppy with pride.

OCTOBER LOTTERY WINNERS

John Ayris	No 14	£10.00
Stanley Gibbons	No 29	£ 5.00
Laura Sproston	No 42	£ 5.00

SEPTEMBER RAINFALL

September 2007	58.5mm or 2.34 inches
September 2006	52.75mm or 2.11 inches
September 1997	12.75mm or 0.51 inches

We knew it would turn wet during the last part of September, saying as we did that it had been a lovely dry month when we put in August's figures, the law of Silly Old Duffers again.

OR: -

"I've had bad luck with both my wives. The first one left me and the second one didn't"

Patrick Murray

GARDENING CLUB

Octobers meeting featured Andrew Baily who made a wonderful display with the plants he had brought along to illustrate "Late Colour in the Garden". He was able to show combinations of grasses with the colourful flowers of the perennials doing their best at this time of year, he was also very informative about reliable plants, old and new, and how the climate is changing peoples buying patterns. Members asked lots of questions and were then able to purchase the plants.

Our next meeting on **November 7th at 7.45pm** will be Jenny Fuller from Plantsmans Preference with her talk on "Hardy Geraniums"

Meanwhile **Sunday October 28th** we will be going to Croxton Church with our entry into The Great Gourd Growing competition, more news next month.

Visitors to our meetings are always welcome, for more details on the club please contact Jenny 01760723306 or Carol 01760440719

LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Group supper evening was voted a great success by everyone who came and enjoyed the atmosphere and, of course, the culinary delights provided. Many thanks to all the chefs for a great spread and particularly to Connie and Chris Springford for hosting this delightful evening.

October meeting: -

The Rev'd Jane Atkins kindly stepped in at the last minute to replace Canon Mair Talbot, who should have been our speaker this month.

Jane certainly entertained us with an account of her time spent as a prison chaplain. She told us of the highs and lows of prison life and its varied inmates. We all agreed that it takes a lot of courage to work in this environment, but Jane assured us that she would not hesitate to return to this challenging work if it was required of her.

Our sincere thanks go to Jane for giving us her time and for sharing her experiences with us.

The next meeting is on the **20th November at 7.45pm**. it will be our Annual General Meeting.

Connie Springford. (Hon Sec. Ov L. G.)

PARISH COUNCIL.

The next meeting of the P. C. is on Thursday **1st November at 7.30** (prompt) in the Village Hall. The main item on the agenda will be setting the budget for next year, which does have a direct bearing on a part of the Council Tax you have to pay. In previous years the P. C. have kept their spending levels fairly constant, with rises in the precept around the 3% mark. Sadly the P. C. have no control over the rates set by Breckland District

Council, Norfolk County Council or most significantly the swingeing increases in Police funding, to which we all have to contribute. P. C. meetings are always open to the public and you would all be most welcome to come along and see just how the P. C. propose to raise and subsequently spend what in fact is your hard earned cash.

EARTH HOUR, 29TH MARCH 2007

Last March many of you (about 70%) helped celebrate Earth Hour by turning off lights and other electrical appliances (yes, even TVs). This was in spite of very short notice. As Ovington was the only place in the UK and probably Europe this makes us the UK's greenest village!

We now have more notice of this and with the wholehearted support of the Parish Council; we would like to do this again but hopefully with a few extra activities too.

So if you have any ideas for this let us know as we do have a longer time to put things into place. For 2008 it looks like Earth Hour, which started in Australia, will go worldwide with Copenhagen already signed up.

There are details on the web site:

<http://www.smh.com.au/earthhour/2008/>

For more information, comments, or ideas contact Jeremy Woods at The Old Crown, phone 01953 883 953 or email jeremy@uktraining.uk.com

DINING OUT IN OVINGTON

We simply had to have a meal in Ovington. It was getting dark after an exciting day exploring the area and walking. However, we didn't even know if there was a pub in the village. So we followed the road away from the streetlights and civilisation.

We approached the village up a slight hill and came into the inhabited part, but nothing showed up that looked like anything that provided food. At the end of the village we turned round and started to leave it with the prospect of having to find somewhere else to eat. Joyce then spotted it. Set back from the road there were some lights and a sign. Down the hill and find somewhere to turn round on the near one-track road. We parked and went inside. It wasn't a pub but a small restaurant. As we went in we saw it was quite full but yes they had a table for two! We then realised that others coming in behind us had all booked so we had been very lucky.

We enjoyed a delightful meal. The seating was greater than we first thought and the waitress was quite excited, as some sports personality had been seated right behind us. It appeared that celebrities were not unusual here. So what could have been a minor disaster came out right and memorable too. So if you want a meal there it's best to book. -

Winships Restaurant - Ovington - 01661835 099, --

-----Northumberland, of course.-----

CHURCH NEWS.

Church Services for November

Nov 4 th	No Services
Nov 11 th	Remembrance Sunday 9am Parish Communion
Lessons:	Mr R Akister, Mrs B Hicks
Steward:	Mr R Akister.
Flowers:	Mrs P Westwood, Mrs. B. Bard
Nov 18 th	No Services
Nov 25 th	9am Parish Communion
Lessons:	Mrs A Johnson, Mr D Pritchard
Steward:	Mr D Pritchard
Flowers:	Mrs R Rednall

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, OVINGTON

We are extremely grateful to Connie Springford, who has kept our church open every Wednesday afternoon for an hour. She has had some very interesting visitors and it has been most worthwhile. However, with the approach of the bad weather and poor light, we feel that few visitors will want to venture out. We have decided, therefore, that the last 'open day' will be the 17th Oct and we will open again in the spring. If you would like to visit the church during the winter months, the key can be obtained from Connie or Pansy Westwood.

As we come to the end of the grass-growing period of the year, we also sit down with a sigh, knowing that the grass-mowing period is also at an end. This year, Sam Scott and his crew have made an excellent job of mowing the churchyard and keeping things tidy. If you have been involved in any way with this mammoth task, please accept a very hearty 'thank you' from all of us who have appreciated your wonderful efforts.

Richard Akister has served us as our Church Treasurer this year. He has made a wonderful job of preparing the accounts and ensuring that we have a clear idea of what is happening with our money. Sadly, Richard is going to stand down at the end of the year and we are now seeking a Treasurer, who can continue this good work. If you have any experience in this field and feel you would like to help us, please contact Revd Jane Atkins on 01760 441191.

FUTURE CHURCH EVENTS.

On Saturday evening 15th December at 7.30pm the renowned Breckland Harmony Singers will be giving a concert in the Church.

Tickets will be available later in the month.

Please support your local singers; we look forward to seeing you there.

(Ed's note: We had the pleasure of hearing this group in concert just the other weekend, they have the most extraordinary talent, their songs ranging from classic to modern rock ballads.

The singing was interspersed with readings and poems, some of which had the audience in fits of laughter. Taking into consideration the fantastic acoustics in Ovington Church, we can heartily recommend you come along on Dec 15th.)

On Friday December 21st at 7.30pm we feature the traditional Carols by candlelight.

It's magic folks, do come along.

A Christingle Service follows this on

Sunday 23rd December at 11am.

During this service we present oranges to the children to represent the fruits of the world and Jesus as light of the world. Although this service is primarily for children, we are all young at heart and everyone is welcome!

So that we do not clear out the local shops of every orange, please let us know if you are coming (and would like a decorated orange). **by returning the slip on the last page to either Pansy at 30 The Street or to Rockfield, Carbrooke Road. Or you could phone on 881848 or even e-mail us on teech10600@aol.com**

(Adults can have a christingle too.....)

Looking even farther forward to next year it is planned to have a "Flower Festival" in the Church on May 24th, 25th, and 26th with set up on 23rd. The theme will be "Trades and Professions Ancient and Modern".

If you would like to participate by doing a flower arrangement on the lines of the above or could man the church during opening times, Pansy would love to hear from you. These events take quite a lot of planning and organising so Pansy is looking to having a meeting in the New Year in preparation for bringing it all together. All welcome.

BOWLS CLUB

Two members of the club recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, which all club members agreed is a wonderful achievement. Denis made his customary speech of congratulation and for once nobody went to sleep. Despite the excitement many good ends of bowls followed, and no, the happy couple were not allowed to win all their games. Hard man is Denis. Well done George and Joan.

STANTA TRAINING NOV/DEC.

Once again pre-operational training will see heavy usage of the Stanta Training Facility from **November 16th to December 14th.**

This will involve attacks using explosives to simulate artillery and mortar fire, leading to increased noise levels at these times.

This training will be concentrated mainly in the Bodney and Eastmere areas; tracked vehicles will use the area by day and night.

81mm mortars will be firing by day and night in the North Eastern part of the area. Detailed times are not currently available.

During the same period fast jets will also be making low passes over STANTA as part of operational training. Helicopters will be used extensively in support of ground troops which may result in them hovering in particular areas for long periods.

The West Tofts to Wretham road will be closed from **16th Nov to 14th Dec.**

Watton airfield will continue to be used by C130 and Helicopters on a daily basis. The area will have particularly heavy use during the period **12th to 22nd Nov** for a large airborne exercise.

Ed's note: We know no one likes to be disturbed by nocturnal noises and loud explosions, but when you see on TV what our lads are up against in some of the worlds most inhospitable regions, we must surely recognise their need for intensive training.

WATTON CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

This is being held in Watton on **Sunday 2nd December.** Apparently last year there were complaints from the surrounding villages that there was no public transport available for their people wishing to participate in or watch the proceedings.

The Watton Town council would like to know if anyone in Ovington is anticipating a trip to Watton on that day and will require transport. If so would you please contact Ovington Parish Councillors in the first instance to enable bookings to be made.

Contact: - Rod Rumsby. 31 The Street. or on 882246 as soon as possible please.

TWO FOR THE LADIES.

Q. What does it mean when a man is in your bed gasping for breath and calling your name?

A. You did not hold the pillow down long enough!

Q. What do you call an intelligent, good looking, sensitive man?

A. A rumour!

SAFETY.

Don't forget we put our clocks back on **28th October** (hope this gets to you before then)

Which means darker afternoons, just when you young ones are coming home from school, so we would urge those that cycle to and from school to wear some **Hi-Vis** clothing, may be a bit un-cool but better than being un-der the wheels of a heavy vehicle.

A quiet word to the budding Lewis Hamilton's amongst us, ease up when bombing through the village lads-----please.

FOR VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS: -

Call Michelle on 01953 884544.

Reasonable hire rates for all parties.

DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER

Issue of the ORACLE is

12 noon on 22nd November

TO CONTACT THE EDITORS -----

Grace on 882246

Christine on 885848

THE LAST WORD.

After waiting more than an hour and a half for her date, the young lady decided she had been stood up. Exasperated she changed from her dinner dress into pyjamas and slippers, made some popcorn and settled down to watch TV. No sooner had she got settled down in front of the TV than her front doorbell rang. She opened the door and there stood her date. He took one look at her and gasped. "I'm two hours late - and you're still not ready?"

I / We..... Will
be attending the Christingle Service at
St. Johns Ovington on Sunday 23rd Dec.
I / We would like(No of)
decorated orange/s