

OVINGTON ORACLE

FEBRUARY 2008

2/08

Hello and welcome to all the latest news from your part of the region.

Obviously most of us have survived the festivities and are by now well established in our varying dietary regimes. Ours are working well, only gained two kilos (each) this week! We were looking back on the past year the other day and realised that over that period we asked several question of you, or made requests which elicited no responses from anybody.

(A) Recipes-----does no one cook any more?

(B) Trees-----obviously there were no trees in the village that met the girth criteria.

(C) No one pulled any Christmas crackers with truly awful jokes in them either, hard to believe.

(D) Harry Potter----- Nobody felt able to forecast or rewrite the ending of "Deathly Hallows"

"Nil Desperandum" as Julius Caesar said when his first invasion of ancient Britain went pear shaped.

What follows now is an interesting little quiz for you. Ovington has evolved over the years but there are certain areas within the village that up to the 40's and 50's and beyond still retained their old names. Can you identify these following places and tell us where you think they are----OK.

(1) Cockbarn Corner

(2) Toads Hole Corner

(3) The Ballast Holes

(4) Crab and Winkle line

(5) Village Coal Shed

(6) The Old Chapel Site.

This little mind bender was compiled by Sheila & Barry. There are no prizes but please send your answers to us, we will then publish the winners name - with the correct results.

FEBRUARY EVENTS DIARY

Feb 4 th	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Feb 6 th	Gardening Club	7.45pm
Feb 11 th	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Feb 15 th	Cheese & Wine	7.30pm*
Feb 18 th	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Feb 19 th	Ladies Group	7.45pm
Feb 25 th	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Feb 27 th	Village Hall AGM	7.30pm

VILLAGE HALL AGM

This will be held in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 27th February at 7.30pm.**

The village hall is a facility for all the residents of the village and the AGM is an opportunity for villagers to get involved, not only by offering suggestions for future activities but also by coming along, see how it all works and who knows, perhaps decide to join the team, there's always room for more players

DECEMBER RAINFALL

Dec 2007	72mm or 2.9"
Dec 2006	74mm or 2.98"
Dec 1997	83.5mm or 3.34"

Seems like December is a constantly wet month, no snow recorded you notice. Ah well!

GARDENING CLUB

The next meeting is on **Wednesday Feb 6th at 7.45pm.** The presenter, is Trevor Burlingham with a truly magnificent slide show, depicting a walk around East Anglia with a camera. Having experienced Trevor's illustrated talks at previous meetings we can highly recommend you come along, as always visitors are very welcome.

CHURCH NEWS.

Well, now you know. Our village church may be under threat. We expect it to be there when we want it, such as for christenings, weddings and burials, but at other times we want no part of it. We like that warm, comfortable feeling when the lovely old building is admired by others, but we're not likely to contribute ourselves. We like the notion of it always being there for us but we're not prepared to maintain it. We like the concept of it being a repository of Ovington's history. All those characters that are buried there! How many have looked at the gravestones and wondered. Wondered who they were, what they did. Am I living in their house? 150 years ago Ovington's population was just over 300, and just over a third of them attended church. Then people were in awe of growth, life, seasons, harvests, the weather and wildlife. Now, most of us couldn't give a jot. Christianity made this nation great. It gave her its laws and morals. Christians were foremost amongst the movers and shakers of the past, changing society for the better. Now we are turning our collective backs on the very code of conduct that established Britain, made her great, and was a major influence in establishing the stable society we can all enjoy. We blaspheme and don't care. We have lost our sense of shame and right and wrong. The church has always stood by Biblical foundations and is now being ignored. We complain about the behaviour of people yet dilute the teachings of the Bible. We have for decades thought we knew better and we don't. The church will not change its teachings because they are based upon God's Word. You may not like that expression; but that's how it is. God hasn't moved away from us, we've moved away from Him. And it's all reflected in the fate of our little church. It's one of the oldest in Norfolk. It's so well built that even though it hasn't any foundations, it's still there. Christians are a minority; they always will be, but, like the rudder of a ship, they often have influence out of proportion to their number because they can claim the moral high ground. Why? Because what they believe is based on God's standards, not man's. And it's been shown that when we try to play God, while ignoring God, we are shown to be woefully inadequate. Take religion out of life and humanity is reduced. Christianity provides a

sound, proven base for life, morals and living. And death. (Even Jews and Muslims accept the bible as God's Word.) It is the only religion that allows personal freedom and claims a personal relationship with God through his son, Jesus. (No, it's not a swear word, it's the name of a person.)

Most people's opinion on Christianity is based on ignorance or blind rejection, choosing a view that merely reinforces their own prejudices.

Come to church with an open mind. If you're unsure what to do, just sit there and listen. Ask questions afterwards. Ponder on the words that are sung or spoken; they are often powerful, challenging and informative. Just don't complain to God when things go wrong. Why should God be there for you when you've spent your life ignoring him? Give church a try. Harry Hicks.

THANKS

Many, many, thanks to all in the village who have contributed in so many ways to the church via fetes, bazaars, events and the like. We are deeply appreciative and value very highly your support. But much nicer than this, was to see our little church so full for the Carol Service and to hear such vigorous singing. It gladdened our hearts and encouraged us. Thank you. Barbara Hicks

CHURCH EVENTS

10th Feb	9am Parish Communion
Lessons	Mr. H. Hicks Mrs. B. Hicks
Steward	Mrs. B. Hicks
Flowers	No flowers during lent.
24th Feb	9am Parish Communion
Lessons	Mr. C. Springford Mr. R. Akister
Steward	Mr. R. Akister
Flowers	No flowers during lent.

It is our intention to conduct a Church Spring Clean on **Saturday 22nd March**, just before Easter. We welcome any kind person to join in from **10am onwards**. Tall (any height actually) men are especially welcome to cope with the parts we ladies can't reach. We will also be decorating the Church with flowers ready for Easter.

Our thoughts and prayers go to all who are not so well at the moment, including Pansy, our Churchwarden and village stalwart who has been rather poorly.

JANUARY LOTTERY WINNERS

£10.00	No 27	Amanda Wollard
£ 5.00	No 25	Betty Jones

Well done ladies, remember, you have to be in it to win it.

LADIES GROUP

Despite a very wet evening there was a good turn out for our meeting on 15th January. Helen Thompson came and gave us a talk on her experiences as a carer looking after her husband who, amongst other things has diabetes. It was very interesting and also makes you realise how much some people do for their loved ones.

Our meeting on **Tuesday 19th February** has had to be changed, as Breckland are unable to attend. Christine Hardy is going to give a demonstration on how to make decorative Easter Eggs using her quilting skills. The competition is something beginning with K.

FEBRUARY 15TH CHEESE AND WINE

BKPO :-

Lyndia and Chris Lewis, Thornborough, Church Road. It will begin at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome (not only Ladies Group members) and we look forward to seeing you.

LADIES, GET YOUR HUSBAND OR PARTNER TO BRING YOU ALONG AS A VALENTINE TREAT. OK GUYS.

BOWLS CLUB

Believe it or not the club has again laid on a magnificent fish & chip luncheon for their members. You really should join this merry throng, if only for the gourmet element. Every Monday at 1.45pm everyone welcome, why not give it a go.

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD

Should you have concerns over whether your neighbourhood is a safe place to live, or have policing issues, then you should pop along to one of the community action group meetings where you will be able to talk over your problems. We have attended some of these and can assure you that action is taken. The next four meetings are as follows.

March 10th 2008 2.00pm Wayland House

May 13th 2008 7.30pm Wayland House

July 8th 2008 7.30pm Wayland House

Sept 17th 2008 7.30pm Wayland House

Please remember, the Safer Neighbourhood Team is about Community Policing, and policing the priorities that you, as a community want policing.

RECYCLING

Breckland have advised us that for a limited time they are introducing a scheme for collecting bulky items from your door, rather than you having to take them to your local recycling centre.

Normally this service would cost you £20 for three items and £40 for four to six items.

BUT, hold your breath people, for the period from **3rd March to 20th March** this service will be available for half that price-----wow. The snag is that you must have a minimum of three items to participate. So if you only have one or two items, check with a neighbour to see if they have a big item to get rid of---then share the cost, can't be bad.

In the first instance you have to ring Breckland Council on 01362656878 to register your items. You will then be contacted by the disposal experts, who will invoice you and arrange a convenient time to collect the goods, which they say will be within 10 days.

DID YOU KNOW THAT

1. *A manually operated communication delineator?*

Is a pen

2. *Perpetrator of Terminological Inexactitudes?*

Is a liar.

PARISH COUNCIL

Performing to an indeterminate number of Parishioners, your indomitable councillors again took their public by storm on 17th January, demonstrating the diplomatic process in action.

Minutes of previous meeting were read, discussed and certified as a true and accurate record. Matters arising from the minutes contained concerns for the survival of some of the daffodils planted last year as heavy farm machinery had operated over certain of the areas designated for planting. The chairman suggested waiting until the spring to see which areas would need replanting next year. Problems with the availability of the Flexibus at short notice were reviewed, it was thought that the service had improved but was not, as yet, to be considered "Flexible".

The proposed bus stop along the Dereham road (A1065) had not been approved, as it was considered unsafe for passengers to walk along that road to meet the bus. It was also not in the interests of road safety for buses to stop along that particular stretch of road.

Correspondence, mainly from Breckland Council, were read, discussed and necessary actions were agreed to be taken.

The vice-chairman pointed out that an advertised meeting with the Police Authority to explain the reasons for a budgetary increase was purely a political exercise and as last year's meeting proved, all decisions had already been made.

The chairman suggested that for a more hands on approach to policing matters, meetings held by the community action groups (dates of which – see above) would seem more productive.

With nothing further to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.50pm.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday March 13th 2008.

As always every one is welcome, no, entitled to attend and make your views and concerns known. Costs nothing-----there's an offer you can't refuse.

JOKE-----?

On a trans-Atlantic flight, a plane passes through a severe storm. The turbulence is awful and things go from bad to worse when one wing gets struck by lightning. One woman in particular loses it. Screaming, she stands up in the front of the plane "I'm too young to die," she wails.

Then she yells, "Well if I am going to die, I want my last minutes on earth to be memorable! Is there anyone on this plane who can make me feel like a WOMAN?"

For a moment there is silence. Everyone has forgotten his or her own peril. They all stare, riveted, at the desperate woman in the front of the plane. Then a man from Texas stands up in the rear of the plane. He is handsome, tall, well built, with dark brown hair and hazel eyes. He starts to walk slowly up the aisle, unbuttoning his shirt.One button at a time.....No one moves.....
.....He removes his shirt.....
Muscles ripple across his chest..... She gasps.....He whispers "Iron this – then get me a beer".....

That was one for the lads actually.

DOCTORS.

We have heard that there will be changes to the way in which doctor's / G. P's are funded by Central Government and the more local, Primary Care Trust. There is little information on how this will be implemented as yet, but we will keep you informed by putting a copy of the BMA newsletter on the notice board. Dr. Rattan is leaving the Watton practice at the end of this month; there is no word of a replacement at this stage.

**DEADLINE DAY for March
issue of the Oracle is: -
12noon on 20th February 2008**

To book the village hall for your meetings or parties give Michelle a ring on 884544

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