

# OVINGTON ORACLE

MARCH 2008

No. 3/08

Greetings to one and all, have you noticed the daylight hours are getting longer, soon be able to see to eat our tea.

Miracles do happen; we actually got a response to our quiz of last month, not only a response but also a full set of correct answers to boot. All right suspense over; here are the answers.

1. **Cockbarn Corner** - at the top of Church Road, where it joins the A1075, once the site of a large red brick barn.
2. **Toads Hole Corner** - the sharp bend near the entrance to Bush Farm/Carbrooke Fen Road.
3. **The Ballast Holes** - is down the dirt track road on the A1075 towards Watton on your right just before the river bridge. This was the site for the dumping of all rubbish collected from Watton and surrounding villages.
4. **Crab and Winkle** - This was the railway line, which ran from Thetford to Swaffham crossing the Saham road near Dairy Farm it closed to passengers in June 1964.
5. **Village Coal Shed** - is situated opposite the Village Sign and was used for the storage of coal for the distribution to villagers by The Fuel Trustees.
6. **The Old Chapel Site** - situated in the front garden of where No31 The Street now stands.

Our thanks to **Maurice** for taking the time to put pen to paper and sending us the correct answers.

## VILLAGE HALL AGM

If this reaches you before **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February**, just a reminder that the Village Hall AGM is being held at **7.30pm**.

Please come along and give your support, remember this is your village hall.

## EVENTS DIARY

Feb 27 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Village Hall AGM
Mar 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1.45pm	Bowls Club
Mar 5 <sup>th</sup>	7.45pm	Garden Club
Mar 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Churchyard upkeep
Mar 10 <sup>th</sup>	1.45pm	Bowls Club
Mar 13 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Parish Council meet
Mar 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Churchyard upkeep
Mar 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Church Clean
Mar 17 <sup>th</sup>	1.45pm	Bowls Club
Mar 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.45pm	Ladies Group
Mar 24 <sup>th</sup>	1.45pm	Bowls Club
Mar 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Village Litter pick
Mar 31 <sup>st</sup>	1.45pm	Bowls Club

## QUIZ and SUPPER

The Village Hall will be holding their

### Quiz & Supper night at the Village Hall on 26<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm.

Please book your team of 4 a.s.a.p as space is limited, or, if you need further information, please give Christine a ring on 885848. Tickets are £6 each including a supper, tea or coffee.

If you require anything stronger to calm your nerves, or help you think, you are welcome to bring your own alcoholic drinks.

Teams should assemble around 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.

## GARDENING CLUB

Once again Mr Trevor Burlingham gave a wonderful talk with slides for our February meeting. He took us on a tour of East Anglia via his slides and members were transported to many locations, which they can now find for themselves.

Our March meeting to be held on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March in the Village Hall at 7.45pm** will be a talk entitled The Vegetable Garden given by Alan Barson.

The April meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> we will be getting a head start with our hanging baskets when Mr Frank Fuller will be giving us a demonstration. All newcomers are welcome, just come along to the Village Hall at 7.45pm; the evening talk will cost a £1 or join for £5. for the year.

Further information from Jenny 01760 723306 or Carol 01760 440719.

## **EDITORS COMMENT: -**

The oracle has received a lengthy response to Harry Hicks' article regarding the Church in Ovington (Feb issue), with the suggestion that it be published; if only to prove that the Oracle is a "free and unbiased paper for the whole village community".

Unfortunately, the writer withheld their name. To avoid the Oracle falling into the trap of becoming a vehicle for a village slanging match (as has happened in the past with other local publications) it is editorial policy not to publish anonymous contributions. The letter itself ran to nearly four pages, which would allow almost no room for other village matters. While the author made some valid and interesting points, we feel unable to sacrifice so much space to one subject. If the author would like to make himself known to me, I would be happy to discuss publishing a précis of salient points under a "name & address withheld" heading.

I feel it is important to remind readers that, whatever our personal feelings about individuals or institutions such as the C of E, everyone is entitled to voice their own opinion of our free society, but should not expect others to share or even welcome it.

What prompted all this is a fine historic building; once the hub of village life but now in danger of being lost. We should cherish this building out of respect for its long history and the skills of those who built and maintained it. How many people do you know who, given basic materials and rudimentary tools could produce such a wonderful structure today? Education experts talk about the importance of "awe and wonder" to inspire pupils. That is what inspired the skilled craftsmen responsible for building the church and the generations since who have cared for it. Not having a village shop or pub is bad enough – please let's not lose the church as well!

Christine (885848)

## **RECYCLING**

Just a reminder that Breckland can collect a minimum of three bulky items from your house from 3<sup>rd</sup> March to 20<sup>th</sup> March for half the normal price. i.e £10. instead of £20.

Grace has one item; if you have any items let her know so you can share the cost.

## **PANSY'S BIT.**

Thank you all for your prayers, letters, cards and visits to the hospital during my four-week stay there. Your kindness is very much appreciated and I am pleased to say I am now 99% back to normal.

## **BOWLS CLUB**

Having spent most of the last two months feasting, the club is getting down to the serious business of bowling. The carpet has been swept, the bowls have been polished, the score sheets set back to zero and Denis has invested in another joke book. So the scene is set for a truly fun packed bowling season.

Come and join us for an afternoon of good clean fun. 1.45pm every (well most) Monday afternoons in the Village Hall.

## **OPEN GARDENS 2008.**

Terry Rands will be opening his renowned organic gardens to the public again this year.

We can highly recommend a visit to the gardens and to sample the refreshments.

(See food again)

So diaries out folks and note the dates.

**Weekends 7 / 8<sup>th</sup> June**

----- " ----- 5 / 6<sup>th</sup> July

----- " ----- 2 / 3<sup>rd</sup> August

The times of opening are from 10am to 4pm each day.

## **VILLAGE LITTER PICK.**

Like most of us we are sure you prefer to see our village looking pristine, sadly however our verges, hedgerows and ditches become receptacles for other peoples rubbish.

To rectify this situation the Parish Council sponsor an annual Village litter pick, they provide fluorescent jackets, gloves, picking sticks and heavy-duty plastic bags.

What they can't provide is man / woman power so they have asked us if you can join up with like minded citizens to give the village a bit of a spring clean. As an added incentive, hot drinks and refreshments are provided in the village hall afterwards. We have already mentioned Ovington's reputation for satisfying the inner person so expect great things.

The date for this venture will be **Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup>**, starting from the village sign at **10am**. Look forward to seeing you there.

## MARCH - CHURCH ROTA

<b>Mar 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mothering Sunday</b>
Steward	Mrs P Westwood	
<b>Mar 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>
Steward	Mr D Pritchard	
Lessons	Mrs A Johnson & Mr D Pritchard	
<b>Mar 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Palm Sunday, No Service</b>	
<b>Mar 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tuesday in Holy Week 7.30pm</b>	
<b>Mar 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Good Friday No Service</b>	
<b>Mar 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Easter Day</b>	
	<b>9am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>
Steward	Mr. R. Akister	
Lessons	Mrs. P. Westwood Mr. R. Akister	
<b>Mar 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Benefice Service 10.30am.</b>	

You will see from the above rota that during Holy week there will be an additional service in Ovington Church on Tuesday evening the 18<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm

Please note: - Donations of flowers, greenery and help to decorate the Church for Easter will be very much appreciated. The Church will be open from 10.00am onwards on Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup> for this purpose.  
Many thanks. Pansy.

### CHURCH CLEAN.

Please note the Church clean is now scheduled for Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup>. Not as previously advertised in last months Oracle.

### FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH.

Following a most convivial meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb, (by kind permission of John Hardy), the group are working on a rota to ensure the grounds of our Church are kept neat and tidy.

Some slightly more major projects are planned. One is to level the ground adjacent to the area of cremation burials, second to clean out the drainage chambers and thirdly to make secure certain larger grave stones to ensure public safety.

The dates for these projects are Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup>, starting at 10.00am. Volunteers are always welcome

## FLOWER FESTIVAL.

To be held in Ovington Church on 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

The flower arrangers will be setting up on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>. It would be helpful if we could have two or three volunteers to tidy up afterwards and prepare the Church for the rush of visitors on Saturday.

We are also looking for kind people to volunteer to man the Church for the three days of the Festival; we need at least two people at one time to be in the church. If you could give an hour, or two, sometime over the weekend, please contact Pansy at 30 The Street or ring her on 883978, and let her know what day and time you would be available to help. Bearing in mind that the Church will be closing each night at 5pm and the last on duty would be asked to check that all is in order and perhaps give the flowers a drink of water.

During the three-day flower festival the Village Hall committee will be raising funds for the hall by serving refreshments. Details of what will be on offer to be revealed at a later date. Knowing Ovington's talent in the culinary field, we expect diners will not be disappointed.

### CHURCHYARD FLOWERS

Just to let you know there are four deer roaming the churchyard regularly, they appear to be eating the flowers, which have been placed on the graves.

### WAYLAND SHOW.

The Wayland Show committee have released the names of local charities that benefited from the receipts of last years show. These are available from Simon on 882125.

This years Wayland Show is on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Entries for various craft and cooking competitions are still welcomed. Entry forms are available from "Grandmas Patch" and "The Village Florist" in Watton. Start planning those winning entries now. The annual dinner dance will be held at Lynford Hall on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April. Tickets are £37.50 and there will also be an auction with proceeds going to the Quidenham Children's Hospice.

For a great night out contact Sally on 01760441074 to book your tickets.

Dianne Sculfer.

### FEBRUARY LOTTERY WINNERS

£ 10.00	No. 23	Daphne Preece.
£ 5.00	No. 54	Dave Carr

## **LADIES GROUP**

Our annual Cheese and Wine evening was held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. As it was close to Valentine's Day the ladies were all given a red rose. Lyndia and Chris made us very welcome in their home and with a very good 'turn out' it was a very enjoyable evening. The food, which included 2 cheese fondues was excellent. A big 'thank you' to the committee for preparing it.

We had another very well attended meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb when Christine Hardy showed us how to make decorative Easter Eggs. Everyone had 'a go' and the results were very good. A big 'thank you' to Christine for all her preparation for the evening. The competition was also well supported.

The next meeting is on **March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7.45pm** when we shall have a member of Breckland Recycling Team coming to give us a talk. It will be good to know exactly what we are allowed to put in our black bins. The competition will be something beginning with L.

The Ladies Group annual dinner is to be held on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April** at the Old Bell, Saham Toney. Transport will be provided. The menu will be at the March meeting for all to give their choice of food.

## **WELCOME.**

We offer a warm Ovington welcome to Antony and Gwen, who have recently moved into the Street. We look forward to seeing much more of you around the village.

## **WAYLAND COMMUNITY BANK.**

Following its successful launch in November 2007 the membership of the Bank is growing steadily, with some exciting developments in the near future. Due to this success more volunteer staff are needed.

These are: -

**Community Bank Manager.**  
**Marketing and Publicity Officer.**  
**Customer Service Officers.**

For more details of these posts contact Iain Cockburn at Wayland House, High Street, Watton, IP25 6AR. Call on 01953 880204  
Or E-mail [iain@wayland.org.uk](mailto:iain@wayland.org.uk)

## **WAYLAND SPRING CRAFT FAIR.**

Will take place at Wayland House car park and in the Dragonfly centre on **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April from 10am to 3pm**. Entry is free and the venue will provide an opportunity to sell wares and demonstrate skills. Bookings for stalls are now being taken.

Contact Susan on 01953 880205 at Wayland House High Street Watton, or e-mail: - [susan@wayland.org.uk](mailto:susan@wayland.org.uk) for bookings and more information.

## **WAYLAND COMMUNITY RADIO**

Will be on the air from March 17<sup>th</sup> to April 13<sup>th</sup>. They are planning to feature a different village each week for a programme similar to 'Down Your Way'. The programme would be called 'Village View' and pre recorded and broadcast on Sunday afternoons. They would like to interview 3 or 4 village people willing to talk about different aspects of life in Ovington.

Please contact Rod (882246) for further details.

## **CHUCKLE CORNER. (KIDZ)**

A small boy is sent to bed by his father.

5 minutes later....."Da-ad....."

"What?"

"I'm thirsty, can you bring me a drink of water?"

"No. You had your chance. Lights out"

5 minutes later; "Da-aaaaad....."

"WHAT?"

"I'm THIRSTY. Can I have a drink of water??"

"I told you NO! If you ask again, I'll have to smack you!!!"

5 minutes later....."Da-aaaaad....."

"WHAT!"

"When you come in to smack me, can you bring me a drink of water?"

## **JANUARY RAINFALL**

Jan 2008	90.5mm	or 3.62ins
Jan 2007	102.0mm	or 4.08ins
Jan 1998	84.0mm	or 3.36ins

Thank you Ted

**For Hall bookings please contact  
Michelle on 884544**

**DEADLINE DAY for April issue of  
the Oracle is: 12noon on 20<sup>th</sup> March  
2008**

## **EDITORS:**

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