

OVINGTON ORACLE

APRIL 2008

No. 4/08

Welcome to April's selection of Ovingtons past activities, forthcoming events and any bit of gossip we overhear in our perambulations around the village. Couldn't help but notice the patriotic decorations on the first bend along Church Road, nice idea but we have seen the odd ex military motorist giving a smart eyes left (or right) and saluting as they drive past. Not entirely conducive to road safety we-thinks, but it's the thought that counts.

Also observed the welcome increase in illuminations around the village hall, which might be a good thing really considering that not everyone can park on the square there after dark.

Don't the Daffodils look splendid, despite the efforts of inconsiderate motorists to see how many they can run over. We suppose that as the Parish Council are credited with planting the daffs, it is only right that they should take the blame for allowing some of them to be crushed. Hmm on that note we may now not be welcomed at the next PC meeting.

APRIL EVENTS DIARY

Tues Apr 1 st	to 12noon	April fools day beware)*
Wed April 2 nd	7.45pm	Gardening Club
Mon April 7 th	1.45pm	Bowls Club
Wed April 9 th	7.30pm	Village Hall meeting
Mon April 14 th	1.45pm	Bowls Club
Tues April 15 th	7.45pm	Ladies Group
Mon April 21 st	1.45pm	Bowls Club
Fri April 25 th	7.30pm	Ladies Group Dinner*
Sat April 26 th	7.30pm	QUIZ NITE
Mon April 28 th	1.45pm	Bowls Club

All the above held in the Village Hall except marked *

QUIZ AND SUPPER NITE.

To be held in the Village Hall on
26th April at 7.30pm.

Teams to assemble by 7.15pm.

Please book your team as soon as possible from Christine (885848) Tickets are £6 each and include a cold buffet. Please bring your own alcoholic drink if required.

GARDENING CLUB

Alan Barstow gave a very amusing and interesting talk on vegetable gardening, starting with the way things were done in his father's time and how things have changed in our time, and how some things never change. He also brought along some interesting tools.

Our next meeting on the **2nd April 2008 at 7.45 pm**, we have Frank Fuller who is going to demonstrate putting together a hanging basket. On **10th May** we will be visiting Wretham Lodge, which was our prize in the Great Gourd competition.

On the **17th May** we will be holding our Fundraising coffee morning and plant sale at Redwood House by kind permission of Richard and Ann Akister.

LADIES GROUP

First of all I must apologise for putting the wrong date for the Annual Dinner. It is actually on **25th April** (not 15th).

We had another very well attended meeting on Tuesday 18th March. Sarah Simpson came along from Breckland Council and gave a very interesting and informative illustrated talk on recycling. We now all know what we should be putting in our black bins and more importantly what should not be put in.

Our meeting this month is on **15th April at 7.45pm**. Mr Trevor Howard Burlingham will be speaking about East Anglian Defences 1940. The competition is something beginning with **M**.

The May meeting is on **20th** and will be our Pub Walk. We shall be leaving the Chequers at Thompson at 6.30pm and hope to be back at the pub by 8.00pm ready to eat at 8.15pm. Husbands and partners will be very welcome. If you want to come to The Chequers for the meal only please be there by 8.00pm. If you need transport I shall endeavour to find someone to get you there. Please let Angela (884594) know. The menu will be at the April meeting for members to give their choice.

CHURCH NEWS
April Church Rota

Apr 6 th	No Service
Apr 13 th	11.30am Parish Communion and Baptism
Steward	Mr D Pritchard
Lessons	Mrs A Johnson, Mr D Pritchard.
Flowers	Mrs P Westwood
Apr 20 th	No service
Apr 27 th	9am Parish Communion
Steward	Mr R Akister
Lessons	Mr R Akister. Mr C Springford
Flowers	Mrs A Akister

First off we are giving advance information on the **St John's of Ovington Flower Festival** over the period: - **24th May - 10am to 5pm, 25th May - 11am to 5pm and 26th May - 10am to 4pm.**

A flower festival used to be a common occurrence in our Church up until a few years ago, so we thought it was time to repeat our earlier successes.

The theme this time is to depict "**Trades & Professions, Old & New.**"

Should flower arranging be a passion of yours, or if you would like to spend a little time helping out, I, Pansy, would love to hear from you. Some volunteers have already offered to man the Church during opening hours, but I could do with a few more. The more volunteers there are the less time anyone will have to spend on "Duty". We hope you will also give your support by coming to see the wonderful floral arrangements, there will have been a great deal of effort by the arrangers to make this a memorable event, so please come and support their efforts.

Thank you.

Very many thanks to the band of helpers who cleaned and polished the Church on 15th March. Where do all the spiders come from? Also thanks to Grace for providing some covers for the pew seats.

At the same time the friends of the Church were working hard in the churchyard, which is now looking great.

On a personal note, very many thanks for improving the ground behind where the ashes are interred. The fence will hopefully deter the deer from eating or breaking down the flowers. It would seem they do not like daffodils as our lovely display this year has not been troubled.

Parochial Church Council AGM.

This will be held on **27th April** following the morning service.

Open Air Service.

This will take place on **July 13th at 3pm**, with the Watton Silver Band providing the musical accompaniment. This will be followed by cream teas in the village hall.

SUMMER FETE.

The Village Hall committee have decided, in view of the planned Flower Festival in Ovington Church over the **24th, 25th and 26th May**, not to hold the traditional Fete this year but to coordinate our efforts with the Church by having the Village Hall open for the three days of the Flower Festival.

During this period the committee will provide refreshments along the lines of ploughman's lunches, filled rolls, cakes, tea, coffee and cream teas. Not neglecting fund raising efforts and the public's desire for a flutter, the committee will also be setting up Raffle and Tombola stalls.

This is where we put in the usual plea for donations for the above-mentioned stalls.

The Tombola will be exclusively a bottle one this time around, so if you can donate a bottle full of any edible or drinkable material, wine, lemonade, single malt, sauces, or shampoo, bubble bath, etc.. you get the idea, the committee would be extremely grateful.

Not finished with the pleas for help yet, should any nice person feel able to lend a hand at the village hall during the three days of opening, to help serve and prepare food, drinks etc. Would they in the first instance contact Grace on 882246 or Christine Hardy on 889920 to arrange convenient times etc.

Thank you.

RAINFALL - FEBRUARY

Feb 2008	39.5mm	or	1.58ins
Feb 2007	78.5mm	or	3.14ins
Feb 1998	11mm	or	0.44ins

Thank you Ted

MARCH LOTTERY RESULTS

£10	No. 49	Jeremy Woods
£10	No. 58	Pansy Westwood
£ 5	No. 26	Simon Hardy

PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting of our village leaders this month was enhanced by the attendance of our local community policeman.

PCSO Carl Evans, part of the SNAP team, gave a rundown of his role in Watton and neighbouring parishes and expressed an interest in any policing problems the people of Ovington may see as requiring attention.

The councillors, reflecting the concerns of parishioners, considered the increase in traffic levels through the village owed much to drivers' dissatisfaction with the operation of the traffic lights and traffic hold ups through Watton High Street. Seemingly Watton Green, Ovington and Saham are becoming a "rat run". Allied to the increase in traffic are a number of drivers not observing the speed limits through the villages. The PCSO said that trials using portable speed cameras with locally trained operators had been concluded successfully in other parts of the county and it was hoped this could be extended to cover all of Norfolk's rural communities. The council agreed this was a good idea and would work with Carbrooke and Saham PC's to agree a cost sharing process to enable training of volunteers and allowing provision of the portable cameras to be funded equally.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Evans for his attendance and interest in Ovington and looked forward to seeing him on his planned foot patrols through the village.

Following discussion of the NCC document on Mineral Extraction and Waste Disposal sites being considered in Norfolk, it was agreed that a proposed site in an area of SSSI for which the neighbouring parishes of Hockham and Wretham are registering objections, should have this councils support in their objections. The council, in response to a query from a member of the public, stated that no progress had, as yet, been made in the provision of a safe bus stop in Ovington, but the matter was still under review.

The next Parish Council meeting will be the **Public meeting** followed by the **PC Annual General Meeting** This will take place on: - **Thursday May 8th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.** All welcome.

The next meeting with the SNAP will be on 13th May. In Wayland House, Watton at 7.30pm

EARTH HOUR

Here is a reminder that once again Earth Hour is happening on: 29th March between 8.00 and 9.00 pm

To our knowledge, Ovington was the only village in the UK to recognise and support this event with some 75% coverage. Originating in Australia, this year Earth Hour has gone global. As a result, at 8pm March 29, 2008 millions of people in some of the world's major capital cities, including Copenhagen, Toronto, Chicago, Melbourne, Brisbane and Tel Aviv will unite and switch off for Earth Hour.

To participate just switch everything off for an hour, but watch out for the fire risk from the candles!

Also note that Joyce Woods is in Australia, as our representative and will be with Greg Bourne, Chief Executive officer of World Wild Life Fund - Australia when this event happens in Sydney!

You can find our more at:

<http://www.earthhour.org/>

or phone Jeremy Woods on 883953

NCC CARE SERVICES.

NCC in partnership with Care Choices Ltd. has produced a new directory to help people find the right care for themselves or a relative. Care Choices have a help line No (0800 389 2077) that will give you all information on various care homes and what facilities they offer.

To receive a free copy of the Care Services directory about services available through NCC ring: - 0844 800 8014.

WAYLAND COMMUNITY RADIO.

Don't forget, you have until April 13th to go on air (or send a written report) about anything that you feel is important to you about the village you live in. Historical matters, social problems, recreational activities, praise some otherwise unsung hero / heroine, anything. Rod went on air last year to complain that the flyer sent out by WCR had excluded Ovington from the list of places able to receive its signal (albeit weakly). He survived and lives to tell the tale, says it was fun. (He'll laugh at anything). Give them a ring on 01760 441161.

WAYLAND SPRING FAIR

This will take place at Wayland House (old Police Station) car park and Dragonfly centre on Saturday 19th April 10am – 3pm see enclosed, separate leaflet

An English lecture: -

A linguistics professor was lecturing to his English class one day. "In English" he said, "A double negative forms a positive. In some languages, though, such as Russian, a double negative is still a negative. However there is no language wherein a double positive can form a negative."

A voice from the back of the room piped up, "Yeah right"

Also: -

Why do doctors call what they do "practice"?
Why the time of day when traffic is at it's slowest is called the "rush hour"?
If flying is safe why do they call the airport the "Terminal"?

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW OVINGTON?

You may recall the little quiz we ran a couple of editions ago where you were asked if you could pinpoint some old Ovington areas with strange sounding names. You do? Good, we have another little poser for you.

This might be a little tricky for some of the newer settlers to this neck of the woods, but you only have to ask the right people to glean the necessary information. Who knows, might be something in it for the winner this time. Right, go for it.

During the 1940's 50's and 60's, Ovington had a flourishing shop, it was about the size of a single garage and stocked a wide range of goods, including cigarettes & tobacco, they even sold loose cigarettes for when things was hard and cash was short.

The shop, over this time had three different proprietors and was in three different locations, one of which is still in use as a garage in a prominent part of the village today.

Here comes the hard part, can you name: -

Site one and its proprietor.....

Site two ----- : -----.....

Site three ----- : -----.....

Answers please to the editors.

IT COULD BE YOU.

WAYLAND PLAYERS

Present 'PYGMALION' at the Queens Hall April 17th – 19th. Cost £6.

Free transport to the Queens Hall on Thursday April 17th only, can be provided from the village for those without a car by ringing 885698. Further details see Poster in the village notice board.

Sign on a public bus: -

When you exit the bus, please be sure to lower your head and watch your step.

If you miss your step and hit your head, please lower your voice and watch your language.

Thank You.

WALK ON THE WILD SIDE.

Norfolk Wildlife Trust are organising free Spring Walks around Thetford on Saturday 5th April, to prove that spring is really here.

There are three walks with the start times as follows:

Walk 1. 10 to 11.30am

Walk 2. 12.30 to 2pm

Walk 3. 3 to 4.30pm

Starting from the B T O, The Nunnery, off of Nuns Bridge Road. Thetford.

The recommendation is to wear stout shoes or Wellington Boots as it can be wet, no booking just turn up.

They are also holding a Garden Workshop on Sat 31st May 10am to 4pm in the Thetford Guildhall. This is also free and aims to show how to attract wildlife into your gardens.

Booking is essential in this case.

Phone NWLT on 01603 598333

To book the Village Hall for your function, party, quiz, etc. Give Michelle a ring on 01953 884544. Very reasonable rates.

**To contact the editors of this journal for any reason then ring, or call on, the following:
Christine, Saham Road, 01953 885848
Or
Grace, 31 The Street, 01953 882246**

DEADLINE for articles, reports, diary entries, etc. for the May edition of the

Oracle is: -

High Noon on 18th April 2008.

****DON'T FORGET the LITTER PICK
10am on Saturday 29th March ****