

OVINGTON ORACLE

June 2008

No. 6/08

Greetings Ovington, how're yu gitting on together?

As we scribble this bit the "Flower Festival" and associated feeding frenzy in the Village Hall is yet to take place, so we can't at this stage confirm that it was the success we truly believe it will be. However if we can twist the printer's arm somewhat to encourage them to work a bit of very late overtime next week, we may be able to put a brief synopsis of the weekend's activities on the last page.

Looks like we have a result regarding our query on how many shops there were in Ovington in the past, turns out there were more than we were led to believe.

JUNE DIARY

June 3 rd	Bowls Club	1.45pm
June 4 th	Garden Club	6.30pm
June 7/8 th	Terry's Garden Open	10-4
June 9 th	Bowls Club	1.45pm
June 16 th	Bowls Club	1.45pm
June 16 th	Parish Council	7.30pm
June 17 th	Ladies Group	7.45pm
June 23 rd	Bowls Club	1.45pm
June 29 th	Strawberry Teas	3pm
June 30 th	Bowls Club	1/45pm

CHURCH NEWS

At the Parochial Church Council meeting Pansy Westwood and Richard Akister were re-elected as Churchwardens.

Ann Johnson as Hon. Secretary and Richard Akister as Hon. Treasurer.

As from Wednesday 5th June Ovington Church will be open every Wednesday throughout the summer months from 2.00pm - 3.00pm.

The PCC would like to thank everyone who very kindly supported the Flower Festival by way of displays, those who came to view, and visitors who enjoyed refreshments provided by the village hall committee in the village hall.

CHURCH SERVICE ROTA

1 st June	No Service
8 th June	9am Parish Communion
Lessons	Mr C Springford, Mrs B Hicks
Steward	Mrs B Hicks
Flowers	Mrs C Springford
15 th June	No Service
22 nd June	9am Parish Communion
Lessons	Mrs A Johnson, Mr D Pritchard
Steward	Mr D Pritchard
Flowers	Mrs R Rednall

OVINGTON VILLAGE SHOPS

We thank Barry & Sheila for setting the questions in the first place, and Chris Woods and Fred Reynolds for supplying the answers. Remember, these answers refer to shops that are recalled by people living in the village now. No doubt there were other shops and places of trade that operated within Ovington, going back centuries, more research needed.

Site 1. Mrs Dolly Page had the first shop at Mill House, Mill Lane. Sadly she lost her son Percy in a shotgun accident.

Site 2. Mrs Harvey had a small shop at 'Ivanhoe' Saham Road; she then moved the shop only to Dereham Road near the river. The traction engines would pull up, to top up their tanks with water and pop in to buy cigarettes etc.

This rather remote location resulted in the shop being broken into and a large quantity of cigarettes being stolen.

Site 3 It was then moved to what is now, No17 The Street, run at that time by Mrs Milly Cook.

Site 4 It was then moved to Town Farm and run by Mrs Agnes Bambridge. The shop was in a small garage at that time, and the same building is still in use today, as a garage, at No 5 Crown Crescent.

Site 5 A small shop then opened at No 3 Crown Crescent, run by a Mrs Glenn. This only lasted for a short time, and Ovington lost its only shop, this followed the closure of two Public Houses, a blacksmith, boot/shoe maker and repairer. Ovington was also home to a gentleman who owned the Cinema in Watton and one in Hunstanton.

We hope to stir the old grey cells again with some more queries about Ovington of old. Watch this space.

PARISH COUNCIL, PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish meeting was well attended by representatives of local organisations who kindly gave the meeting an idea of their activities for the past year and some thoughts on the way forward for the coming year.

The Chairman was pleased to welcome our Community Policeman, PCSO Carl Evans, who was able to give some reassuring answers to members of the public who raised issues appertaining mainly to inconsiderate parking in the village and speeding traffic through it.

Rev Jane Atkins was also a welcome guest at our gathering and she was able to say that the Church, although light in the congregation stakes, would appear to be functioning well.

Members of the public raised issues concerning dog fouling, and possible re-siting of the seat on the Crown Crescent.

The Chairman said these matters were pertinent and would be included on the agenda of future Parish Council meetings.

Following the obligatory refreshments the Parish Council AGM was held, where The Chairman was re-elected to serve another term, as was the Vice – Chairman.

These are respectively: -

Rod Rumsby (Chair)

Chris Lewis (Vice Chair)

Janet Armstrong (Councillor)

John Hardy (Councillor)

Jeremy Woods (Councillor)

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on **June 16th 2008 at 7.30.** In the Village Hall

IT'S THE COUNCILS' FAULT

Many of us have only a vague idea of what Local Authorities ("Councils "in plain English!) do, or don't do for us. If we do it is often unclear which variety, County, District or Parish bears the ultimate responsibility.

To improve matters the government have decided that the duties of County and District councils shall be merged into a new "Unitary" Authority and given the Boundary Committee for England the job of coming up with a preferred option which the minister is likely to accept.

The time scale is short. During March and April 2008 all local authorities were asked to submit proposals for a new structure for the Norfolk region. It has been indicated that only proposals for two or three authorities are likely to be accepted, the public will then be consulted on a shortlist of one and a final choice made by the end of 2008.

As the existing county and district councils are likely to be abolished elections will be postponed for about one year, existing councillors continuing to serve, and elections will then be held for the new authorities, which will have a reduced number of seats.

The likely outcome is a three-authority model. Norwich, possibly enlarged to take in the surrounding suburbs, together with two other authorities dividing Norfolk either North/South or East/West.

There is also the possibility that Lowestoft and Yarmouth may be hived off from their respective counties and combined into a separate unitary authority.

How will this affect you? To begin with Norfolk as an administrative concept will cease to exist, it will simply be a geographical area. At present Breckland has the lowest council tax in the country so our council tax will increase to the average of all districts in the new authority. It is hoped, however, that there will be economies of scale to give an overall saving. Whatever model is chosen it is likely that King's Lynn will become the administrative centre as far as we are concerned and that fewer, and hence more influential, councillors will represent us.

Although one level of local government will be abolished, a new organisation – the Area Committee – will be introduced. Membership of these committees will comprise both Councillors (including Town and Parish) and non-voting representatives of other public service providers. These committees will decide on how their area's share of the budget will be spent but the overall budget and contracts with service providers will remain the responsibility of the Unitary Authority. Contracts will be bigger and so the list of those able to compete will be restricted to a smaller group of larger companies able in the short term to offer competitive rates but eventually gaining a virtual monopoly.

As things stand you will have little or no say in all this. The press have shown little interest in these changes which will cost millions of pounds to implement and must be funded from the council tax – your pocket! Most councils, with the exception of Norwich, see little advantage in the changes but are just following orders. There is little time for you to demand your say so don't wait, do it now. The only recourse left is to bombard the press with letters so that they will sit up and take notice.

When it happens don't say you were never told!

Chris Lewis, Parish Councillor

REDHILL LANE

It has come to our notice that there is some controversy concerning the recent repairs to the surface of the lane, which due to the nature of the materials used is making it unsafe for horse riders and pedestrians alike.

We are informed that the Parish and District councils are taking this matter up with the authorities responsible for the upkeep of the lane. Further details can be obtained from the Ovington Website.

GARDENING CLUB

The Gardening Club last year won a competition for the best display of gourds in Croxton Church, as a result of this the club was invited to a private tour of the wonderful gardens at Wretham Lodge. The beautifully laid out and maintained gardens and natural woodland surely gave inspiration to all us tillers of the soil.

The Garden Club held a very successful fundraising morning May 17th. Despite the weather and because of the hard work and generosity of members and visitors we raised a record amount. Ann and Richard kindly opened their lovely garden for the event and despite the rain visitors were able to walk around and admire the surroundings. We had a considerable amount of plants donated and those that did not sell were taken to a local car boot sale in another attempt at raising funds. Tea and cakes went down very well and the many raffle prizes helped to swell the amount raised. The club would like to thank everybody who helped put everything together.

Our next meeting, JUNE 4TH, is another visit this time to North Pickenham where we are visiting the private garden of P & H Plants. We plan to meet about 6.30pm. The bungalow is next to the village school on the South Pickenham Road just before Brecklands Green. If you are interested in coming please let Carol or Jenny know.

July 2nd we are travelling to Seamere Study Centre in Hingham again meeting around 6.30pm. We are having a guided tour followed by tea. Again so we can judge numbers if you are interested in the visit please let Jenny or Carol know. (01760 723306 01760 440719).

APRIL RAINFALL

April 2008	40.75mm or 1.63 ins
April 2007	0.75mm or 0.03 ins
April 1998	104.00mm or 4.16 ins

Once again, thank you Ted.

LADIES GROUP

Our May meeting, on Tuesday 20th, was our very popular Pub Walk. We all met at The Chequers at Thompson at 6.15pm. Everyone was in good time and 23 ladies and gents and of course my little dog Lily left for our walk round Thompson. We were very lucky to have a beautiful sunny evening. We got back to The Chequers at 7.30pm feeling very refreshed after a lovely 3½-mile walk. I think most people had a much-needed drink and were later joined by 4 others who were unable to walk but wanted to enjoy the meal with us.

The landlord, Richard did us proud with the meal at a very reasonable price. Listening to all the chatter and laughter I felt that everyone had had a good evening.

Our June meeting is on Tuesday 17th when Diane Cuthbert will be encouraging us to do some keep fit exercises. Hopefully if the weather is fine we shall be doing our exercise class outside. Could I ask all ladies to wear suitable comfortable clothes and shoes. There will still be our usual competition which is something beginning with N.

I would like to remind all Ladies Group members that as I made a mistake in the programme our July meeting will be Trevor Howard Burlingham with a talk on East Anglian Defences of 1940. I know some people may feel that will be a boring subject for ladies, but please remember that it is part of our history.

Angela

OPEN GARDENS 2008.

Terry Rands will be opening his renowned organic gardens to the public on the 7th and 8th June from 10am to 4pm each day.

APRIL LOTTERY WINNERS

£10.00	No. 21	Sylvia Ives
£ 5.00	No. 28	Mavis Scamell

DO NOT GET CAUGHT

Our community policeman mentioned at the Annual Parish Meeting that spot checks were to be made in Watton on illegal parking. For further info read Page 3 in this month's Wayland News.

STOP PRESS NEWS

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Typically for England the separate days of the Flower Festival exposed us to three distinctly differing weather conditions. Lovely warm sunshine, then belting it down with rain, followed by howling gales.

Not deterred, the willing helpers coped with not only the weather but with the hundreds of people who came to admire the magnificent floral displays in the Church, and dine on the sumptuous repasts in the Village Hall. We have heard the whole weekend was a financial success, very important issue, but our experience was of a friendly social gathering of folks from far and wide.

We have been asked to thank the volunteers who manned the Church, distributing the programs, engaging in friendly banter with the visitors.

The same heartfelt thanks also to the stalwarts who put together the food, served it up, made gallons of tea & coffee, sold an abundance of raffle tickets, correctly saw to the disappearance of all the bottles from the Tombola stall, and flogged off a lot of the oddments from the "miscellaneous" stall. All of the weekend's events were dependant on the talents of the flower arrangers, unsurpassed in our humble opinion, and you the people of Ovington for your generous donations of the cakes and scones, and the spectacular variety of bottles for the Tombola stall and raffle prizes.

We have also been asked to thank Barry, Richard and Rod for their attention to the Church and Village hall grounds and to Barry for the provision of essential greenery for the flower arrangers.

The whole experience this weekend is truly an example of harmonious community cooperation. Great living here isn't it?

RECYCLING

Don't forget the only things you can put in your black bin for recycling are: - Paper, Aerosol Cans, Cardboard, Clean food and drink cans, Clean Plastic bottles including plastic milk bottles, drink bottles, shampoo ,pump sprays, household cleaners, but NO lids

Definitely NO margarine tubs or any other plastic containers, no plastic bags. These all go in your GREEN Bin

ON A LIGHTER NOTE.

A man was telling his neighbour, "I just bought a new hearing aid, it cost me £2000, but it's state of the art, it's perfect".

"Really" answered the neighbour, "What kind is it?"

"Twelve thirty"

A TRUE STORY

My grandson, aged about four at the time, found a couple of rubber bands on the drive. I explained they were the sort of rubber bands used to keep bundles of letters together and had probably been dropped by the postman.

A couple of weeks later he came out of our bedroom holding a rubber band he had found on the carpet, and announced to my wife, "Granny, the postman has been in your bedroom!".

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

It is with great regret that we have to accept the resignation of our long-standing and super efficient bookings clerk, Michelle Prothero. Michelle has had some changes in family circumstances, which means her priorities have to change. Thank you Michelle for your good works over the past five years. May things go well with you.

With barely a twisted arm in sight, Christine Hardy has leapt forward to volunteer her services as booking clerk for the village hall, we wish her well. (See Below)

As from the 3rd June, for Hall bookings please contact

Christine Hardy on 889920

DEADLINE DAY for July issue of the Oracle is: 12noon on 19th June 2008

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