

OVINGTON ORACLE

OCTOBER 2008

10 / 08

Hi, Folks

Did we miss summer? Probably, and we only popped inside for a cup of tea.

A look at Ted's rainfall figures below will show without doubt that August was a touch on the soggy side, with September looking to try and surpass it!

So what, other than shower dodging, have we in Ovington been doing the past four weeks? It would seem that sounds of the countryside are soon to be a thing of the past if our District Council pursues its campaign to stop poultry from doing what nature intended, celebrate the coming of a new day.

Seems us country folk are far too noisy; perhaps they should build a new airport on the old RAF Watton airfield! Much preferable, wouldn't notice the odd bantam doing his thing then, or that dratted tractor working the fields.

OCTOBER DIARY

October 1 st	Gardening Club	7.45pm
October 5 th	Church Harvest Service	6.00pm*
October 6 th	Bowls Club	1.45pm
October 13 th	Bowls Club	1.45pm
October 20 th	Bowls Club	1.45pm
October 21 st	Ladies Group	7.45pm
October 22 nd	Deadline date for Oracle	
October 25 th	Deadline for Supper eve tickets	
October 27 th	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Nov 1 st	Supper Evening	7.00pm

All meetings in the Village Hall except marked*

BBQ, AUGUST 30th

This event was a splendid success, over fifty folk attended. The food, courtesy of Chef Antony, was nutritious, delicious and just right for those diet conscious girls among us. The young (and not so young) worked up a competitive frenzy on the games provided, and we are still waiting to discover whether the first prize in the raffle is suitable for communal imbibing!!!! No pressure Clive.

Apart from all the practical elements mentioned, it was a most convivial social gathering, for which Ovington has gained an enviable reputation over the years.

Thanks must go to the generous donations of those succulent tomatoes and bread rolls.

And hey! The weather was perfect.

Just hope the joyful noise did not disturb anyone.

VILLAGE SUPPER

Saturday 1 November 7 for 7.30pm

Book your tickets for the village supper A S A P, - they are limited and going fast! As last year, there will be a choice of tasty home-cooked casseroles with potatoes or rice, followed by a dessert and tea or coffee. Menus have not been finalised at time of going to press, but last year's included curry, chilli, chicken in wine, pork in cyder and beef in ale with dumplings, so there should be something for everyone's taste. Diners need to bring their own bottles (or cans) of their preferred tippie to accompany the meal. Despite rising costs all around, tickets will still be available at last year's excellent price of £6. There will be a 'lucky ticket' draw and a raffle. All profits are for village hall renovation funds. So don't delay, ring Christine on 885848 to book your seats.

PRE BAZAAR MEETING

The meeting to arrange the forthcoming Bazaar in our Village Hall on **December 6th** was poorly attended. The six people who did attend have sorted most of the details but are **in need of more helpers**. If you can help in anyway please contact Christine Hardy a.s.a.p. on 889920.

We hope to be collecting around the village again on the **18th November**.

We will be most grateful if you have anything you can contribute for the following stalls: £1.00 stall, Books, Tombola, Raffle, Cakes or Refreshments. **NO BRIC A BRAC**

Unfortunately Father Christmas is unavailable to attend this year, as he is very busy elsewhere.

AUGUST RAINFALL

August 2008	130.8mm or 5.23"
August 2007	112.0mm or 4.48"
August 1998	43.5mm or 1.74"

Thanks again Ted for your accurate record

Points to Ponder

Aspire to inspire before you expire.

Or: -

My wife and I had words, but I didn't get to use mine.

Then again: -

Every morning is the dawn of a new error.

OVINGTON LOSES A FRIEND.

Many people in Ovington will have been saddened to learn of the death of Rosalie Barnard at the end of August. Although she lived just "over the border" in Watton Green, Rosalie was a great supporter of village events in Ovington. Not so long ago she told me of her frustration at being forbidden to ride her bike anymore after a spell of ill health. Her answer was to walk everywhere instead! A dear kind soul – and a lovely lady who always had time for others – she will be greatly missed.

GARDENING CLUB

We were back in the village hall for our September meeting. Jim Paine from Walnut Tree Nursery gave an interesting talk entitled "Right Plant, Right Place".

The soil condition, location and choice of plant within the garden were all covered. Mr Paine brought along a lot of colourful and interesting plants to demonstrate his talk, afterwards the members were able to buy.

Our next meeting on October 1st at 7.45pm in the village hall will be a talk by Mr Robert Maidstone on "Wild Flowers in the Garden"

November 5th we will have a talk from Aromafolia entitled "Around the World in 20 Salvias"

Visitors are always more than welcome. Please contact Jenny on 01760 723306 or Carol on 01760 440719 for further information.

BOWLS CLUB

Denis is still trawling the Internet, searching for dynamic bowlers in the hope of introducing some serious competition for his team of dedicated chuckers of woods.

This team has been a bit concerned that Denis is getting slightly above his station since being featured on Radio Norfolk on August Bank holiday. When the delectable Becky thrust her microphone on a stick in front of Denis and suggested he gave her a demonstration of his skills, he took her at her word and the poor girl has not been heard on Radio Norfolk since. The mind boggles.

So if you are in search of fame, then joining the Ovington Bowls Club could be the start of something big in your life. Try it, if you dare.

LADIES GROUP.

BBQ On Saturday September 13th Marie & Bob Warwick hosted the Ladies Group annual BBQ. The weather was very kind to us as I think it was the first dry and relatively warm day we had had in a fair while. A lot of members and partners, husbands and friends helped us to enjoy a wonderful evening. Chris made a good job of keeping everyone's glass filled. Thank you Chris. Bob did a fantastic job of cooking, so a big thank you to you too Bob. It was also nice to see some visitors. I hope they all enjoyed the evening and felt they had been made to feel welcome. Of course a big thank you goes to the committee for organising the event. The money raised helps the Ladies Group to be able to afford speakers for the following year. So a big THANK YOU to everyone especially the person in charge of the weather!!!

Our September meeting found us making preparations for Christmas. Perhaps it seemed a bit early, but Ann Johnson came to show us how to make Cards for Christmas. That is a task that can never be started too early. We all had a very enjoyable evening and of course a big thank you to Ann.

The next meeting on **October 21st at 7.45pm** will be our AGM. Don't be put off by the AGM as the business doesn't last very long and there will be some entertainment afterwards. As you know we are celebrating our 30th Anniversary this year, the longest running organisation in the village. It only continues with a lot of support from our members. The committee doesn't take up much time, probably 6 meetings a year. If you would like to help on the committee please contact Lyndia (882222) Christine (889920) or Angela (884594). The competition this month is something beginning with Q. We have had a lot of support this year for the competition, so keep up the good work ladies.

Don't forget that we are having a celebration on **November 14th** to commemorate our 30 years. I have a list of past members, but would appreciate if anyone can think of names I may have missed to please contact me on 884594

Angela (Sec)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Have the inmates taken over the asylum in Ovington as well as Westminster?

How can a cockerel crowing at daybreak in a country village be a cause for complaint to Breckland Council? The full force of this council is now being brought to bear in the installation of equipment to register the dreaded 'decibels'. It's so easy to spend the taxpayer's money, what a waste.

It begs the question why did the complainant move to a country village, nobody forced him to, it was his choice. If you reside in a country village you accept country ways and sounds.

He could reside in a town and be subjected to drunken, foulmouthed people in the early hours long before the poor old cockerel wakes.

This is not the first complaint in this vein from this person, it follows 'barking ducks' and I am informed that he had trees felled to prevent song birds roosting and singing the 'Dawn Chorus'

What next, the early milkman with clashing bottles at 5.30am or maybe the refuse collection at 7am. The list is endless.

The council employees are rubbing their hands with glee, they can come out to play wielding a sledgehammer to crack a nut.

Think yourself lucky our complaining resident, when the village had proper farms you could also have heard, cows, calves, pigs etc., oh what joy.

Please get a life.

Editor, How about a village referendum on this subject?

J. Ayris.

Thank you JA; there has been a number of comments throughout the village regarding this controversial issue, all in similar vein to the above. However, not all wish to go into print, but what is your opinion? Do you think the District Council should spend your money on checking noise levels from nature's well-established creatures? Should those who are used to residing in an urban environment, criticise country practices?

If you think the Councils reaction is over the top then you can contact Breckland Council, Environmental Health, ask for Sue Hammond.

All views expressed in the Ovington Oracle are those of the contributors and not the editors.

PARISH COUNCIL

Your Parish Council, which incidentally is also another long established village organisation, met on Sept 4th to run through the agenda, discuss matters arising, read through extensive volumes of correspondence, check the current financial situation, pay outstanding bills and talk about recent planning applications.

An application for a new property adjacent to No 32 The Street was discussed, both the applicant and an objector were present. The Parish Council had already submitted its views to BDC, following circulation between meetings.

Update was given on the situation regarding Barton House Development following withdrawal of the planning application.

A discussion took place on the local government review.

It was agreed that a resolution should be sent to the Boundary Committee in the form of a letter stating, "That this Council is strongly opposed to a change to a Unitary Authority in Norfolk. Financial, democratic and operational effects have not been fully addressed and no evidence is seen that suggests that this would be an improvement over the status quo in terms of Council Tax or effectiveness"

The clerk was asked to include in the next agenda the matter of allotments and Watton's proposed Rainbow Project.

The next meeting, which will also include the budget for 2009 / 2010, is to be held on **November 6th at 7.30pm prompt.**

ALLOTMENTS.

The matter of allotments is, as you can see, to be discussed at the next PC meeting. In these straightened times it seems a good idea to "Grow your own" so if any prospective Alan Titchmarsh out there fancies a spate of digging and planting, then we would suggest you contact the PC Clerk to register your interest.

If at least six people genuinely want an allotment, then it behoves the PC to try and obtain suitable land for that purpose.

The Clerk, John Goode, can be contacted on 01953 889342.

DOMESTIC HEATING OIL.

We had a good response to our call for you to register your interest in obtaining cheaper oil by placing a bulk order and we understood, correctly, that Carbrooke and Scoulton had already entered into an agreement with a local distributor and Thompson is being sorted at the present time.

Negotiations are still underway with this local supplier who hopefully will contact those interested in the new year.

CHURCH NEWS.

OCTOBER CHURCH ROTA

Oct 5 th	6pm	Harvest Songs of Praise
Oct 12 th	9am	Morning Worship
Steward		Mrs B Hicks
Lessons		Mr R Akister, Mrs B Hicks
Flowers		Harvest Flowers
Oct 19 th		No Service
Oct 26 th	9am	Parish Communion
Steward		Mr D Pritchard
Lessons		Mrs A Johnson, Mr D Pritchard
Flowers		Mrs B Hicks

CYCLE RIDE

Very many thanks to everyone who manned the church, the cyclists and not forgetting the sponsors.

HARVEST

Everyone welcome to our Harvest Thanksgiving service it will be held in the church on **October 5th at 6pm**. The format will be a 'Songs of Praise'. Any donations of produce, etc. would be much appreciated, this will be auctioned after the service.

Please take any donations to the church on Saturday morning, or leave it with Pansy at 30 The Street or Richard at Redwood House, Carbrooke Road.

Ladies or gentlemen we would be grateful for any help in decorating the church, you do not have to be a flower arranger.

AUGUST LOTTERY WINNERS

£10.00	No.45	Cynthia Bowman
£10.00	No.23	Daphne Preece
£ 5.00	No.44	Maureen Cable

KIDS. EH!

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales.

The teacher said that it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal, its throat was very small.

The girl stated that a whale had swallowed Jonah.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah"

The teacher asked. "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied. "Then you ask him"

Then again:

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds.

After explaining the commandment to "honour" thy Father and thy Mother, she asked "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill"

DEADLINE DAY for the **NOVEMBER** edition of the **ORACLE** is **OCTOBER 22nd 2008**.

HALL BOOKINGS – please contact **Christine on 88992**.

Editors

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