

OVINGTON ORACLE

NOVEMBER 2008

11/08

Greetings, One and all.

Hey! Makes you think that next month that word "Greetings" may well be prefixed by either "Seasonal" or even "Christmas" Where has the year gone?

Been a bit of a furore in the village of late over crowing cockerels. Haven't seen such a united opposition to the actions of BC since the proposal to site a rugby club house and pitches just off "The Street". Anyone remember that short lived but heartening demonstration of village unity? Can't say that this, unlike the former disagreement, filled the village hall but it did result in a petition signed by over 90% of the households to the effect that crowing cocks are part and parcel of country living. Once again we have received letters voicing concern over BC's handling of the matter, but space only permits the inclusion of some of them. Right, onwards and downwards, lets have a brief resume of past and future happenings in dear old Ovington.

NOVEMBER DIARY

Nov 1 st	Supper Eve	7.00pm
Nov 3 rd	Bowls	1.45pm
Nov 5 th	Garden Club	7.45pm
Nov 6 th	Parish Council	7.30pm
Nov 10 th	Bowls	1.45pm
Nov 14 th	Ladies Group Party	7.00pm
Nov 17 th	Bowls	1.45pm
Nov 18 th	Collection for Bazaar from 2pm	
Nov 18 th	Ladies Group	7.45pm
Nov 20 th	Deadline date Oracle	12noon
Nov 24 th	Bowls	1.45pm
DEC 6 th	BAZAAR	12noon

SUPPER EVENING Nov. 1st

Sorry, SOLD OUT.

Just a reminder to those of you who are coming on the night, the time is 7pm for 7.30pm.

SEPTEMBER RAINFALL

September 2008	85.25mm or 3.41ins
September 2007	58.50mm or 2.34ins
September 1998	50.50mm or 2.02ins

Thank you Ted

OVINGTON GRAND BAZAAR

Will be held in the Village Hall on

December 6th 12noon to 3pm.

There will be the usual stalls: Cakes, Books, Hand made Gifts and Cards, £1 stall. Tombola Raffle. Competitions, **NO BRIC BRAC** Refreshments, including delicious homemade soup and roll.

If you have any suitable items for the Bazaar, we will be around the village collecting on November 18th from 2pm.

If unable to leave any donations on your doorstep please contact Christine on 889920. A quiz is being arranged and will be available shortly priced £1. Hopefully the winner will be announced at the Bazaar and presented with a good prize.

OCTOBER LOTTERY

£10.	No. 53	Nic Sproston
£ 5.	No. 47	Ted Bowman

DECEMBER VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

The lottery will be drawn at the Bazaar on **December 6th** and will consist of 9 prizes: Totalling £ 147.00. There will be prizes of £30, £30, £20, £20, £15, £12, £10, £5 and £5. Total paid out to members for 2008 will then be £342.00.

Our thanks to everyone who has taken part this year. If you wish to join again next year see the form on Page 4.

GARDENING CLUB

At our last meeting Robert Maidstone gave an interesting talk on Wild Flowers in the garden. He convinced us to tolerate a patch of weeds for wildlife. Some of the weeds in our garden may have become quite rare, as their natural habit has been destroyed (roadside verges). Our **November 5th** club meeting at **7.45pm** will be a talk from the Aromafolia nursery entitled 'Around the world in 20 Salvias'

You are welcome to come to any meeting, the new programme starting January 2009 is a good time to come along and find out more about us.

CHURCH NEWS
OCTOBER CHURCH ROTA

Nov 9th	9am Parish Communion and Act of Remembrance
Steward	Mr D Pritchard
Lessons	Mrs A Johnson, Mr D Pritchard
Flowers	Mrs P Westwood
Nov 23rd	9am Parish Communion
Steward	Mrs B Hicks
Lessons	Mrs P Westwood, Mrs B Hicks
Flowers	Mrs A Akister
Nov 30th	10.30am Benefice Communion Service at Watton
The Ven. Martin Gray, Archdeacon of Lynn, will be presiding and preaching	

Harvest - Thank you to everybody who made our recent Harvest Festival Service such a wonderful occasion, to Rev Geoff for leading us in worship, to all who took part in any way in this special service

Cycle Ride - Many thanks to Mark, and the two teenage cyclists, Josh and Nathan, (good to see the youngsters taking part) to those who were sponsored for manning the church, and of course not forgetting the donors.

31 cyclists called in at our church, one coming from as far away as Easton.

£147 was raised on this near perfect cycling day, this will be divided equally between our own church and the Norfolk Churches Trust – a very good amount for their 25th anniversary year.

Remembrance Day – An Act of Remembrance will take place during our service on **Sunday November 9th**.

Advent Service – The Five Parish Advent Service will take place in Carbrooke Church at 6.30pm on **Sunday November 30th**.

You are all welcome to attend this traditional service.
Ann Johnson

A NOTE FROM REV. JANE

During the summer, I managed to get away for a few days to a retreat house in East Sussex. It was a lovely time of peace and quiet, when I studied the Jesus Prayer, took time to read a couple of theological books and had time to pray through my ministry. During that time of prayer, I became aware that a weekly service was needed in my benefice; but what sort of service, at what time and where to hold it?

The answer came, as it always does.

On my return, I went to see a couple in Ovington who were struggling with the Sunday services; they weren't regular enough and they didn't meet the needs of this couple's spirituality. As I listened, I realised that they were talking about a very catholic type of service, perhaps with incense and a bell,

in fact a service of which I have no experience at all.

However, I know that some others have also expressed an interest in this type of service and I therefore decided to try a mid week service on a weekly basis and to base it in Ovington.

Our new service is going to be a said service of Holy Communion with incense and traditional language. We will begin on November 6th at 8am and continue every Thursday at the same time. We will review this decision at the end of December. I do hope that those of you who would enjoy worshipping in this way will join us.

LADIES GROUP

We held our AGM on October 21st and were pleased that 20 ladies were present. Lyndia sent her apologies as she was on holiday.

Angela chaired the meeting and read Lyndia's chairperson's report. Christine then gave the treasurer's report, which was accepted by Sheila Scotton and seconded by 3 other members. Marie has completed her 3 years on the committee so one new member was needed. Sheila Scotton will be our 6th committee member for 2009. The committee for 2009 is as follows –

Lyndia Lewis	Angela Wynne
Christine Hardy	Rosemary Philpot
Ann Akister	Sheila Scotton

I hope that 2009 will be as successful and enjoyable as 2008.

After all the business we had a fun game of beetle, which for 3 members present brought back happy memories of the Beetle Drives Angela Organised for the village hall many years ago.

November 14th. The committee are looking forward to welcoming members past and present to our 30th Anniversary party. The evening will consist of a hot meal and some entertainment by the committee. Please arrive by **7pm for a 7.30pm** start to the evening.

Our **November** meeting is on **18th.at 7.45pm**
When we welcome Pat Barton to our meeting who will be showing (and helping) us how to make a Christmas decoration. Please bring a pair of scissors or secateurs and also £2 towards the cost of materials. The competition is something beginning with R. Could all members please bring an old photo of themselves when young for a competition at our Christmas Social on **December 16th 2008**

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editor

The weekend of the 27/28th of September was noticeable by the amount of motorcycles passing back and forth through the village. It seemed that it was an event organised by a 'Harley Davidson' owners club and was held at a location we believe somewhere in Ovington.

We would just like to comment on and praise all those bikers and motorcyclists for their respect, courtesy, and manner whilst riding their machines through the village. If only others, were this aware when riding or even driving through the village it would be a significant improvement for us all! To whoever organised this event, we would be most grateful if you would pass on our respects and thanks to all those who attended, and we hope that the rest of the village along with ourselves would welcome these bikers and motorcyclists back at any time.

Mr Slough and Ms George

Dear Editors

I was deeply saddened to read in the Oracle, the article in respect of 'Cockerels and Ducks' and the noise thereof. I was raised and have lived in the rural countryside all my life, I have never given much notice to these things, as it was all part and parcel of the richness of life going on all around me. But it is an increasing and unfortunately a regular occurrence nowadays, that we often hear of 'Townies' or 'City' people who move to the country complaining of such issues.

Could there not be some 'Council Board' set up, so as to 'Vet' any prospective purchaser of a rural or country property as to their suitability to live there in the first place? This may also save the district councils vast amounts in the complete and utter waste of taxpayer's money that is spent on these totally ridiculous surveys as is now happening here in our village. Even better! Make all those who whine and whinge about these issues pay for these surveys out of their own pockets, that would certainly shut the vast majority of them up in an instant, for most of these people only seem to convert 'money and image' and know little else of real life!

To complain of and try and eradicate the 'dawn chorus' is just beyond belief, such shallow minded individuals can only command our deepest sympathy for their sad little lives. It is certainly more than evident that these complaining 'town and city' whingers would be far better off returning from whence they came and get back to living blinkered, dull and meaningless existence of their own, rather than causing unnecessary grief and upset for families and people who truly love to live in, work in, have respect for, and who have the true countryside in their blood!

S.E.

Dear Editors

Well done J Ayris, it is about time the "unnamed" person you refer to in last months Oracle be made aware how lucky he is to live in Ovington, instead of complaining.

After reading his article in another publication I have come to the conclusion that the only way he and like minded guests would be happy is if he were to move somewhere without cockerels, birds, aircraft and humans.

It is obvious Ovington does not fit into this criteria, but then he would probably complain about lack of noise.

In my opinion this person has got more gas than a WW2 barrage balloon

J. M. Hill

Petition to Breckland Council

I would like to thank the 100+ people who signed the recent village petition to Breckland Council concerning the waste of ratepayers' money on trivial complaints. It was intended to publish the Council's reply in full, but it runs to two pages and would not be practicable, so in summary.

It outlines (at great length) the general procedure which the Council follows concerning complaints of Noise and the definition of a Statutory Nuisance. "... Monitoring, if required, is carried out by an officer in person, or by using a sound recording device. Sound recording devices are commonly used for complaints where noise is sporadic, or where the allegations are centred around noise late at night or early in the morning. Sound recording devices are installed in the complainant's home for a week long period and are activated by the complainant when they feel the noise is causing an unreasonable interference. Such devices are indispensable to the Department as it enables a week of monitoring to be undertaken without an officer being present, thus saving hours of valuable officer time and travel expense... If a Statutory Nuisance is identified then the Council are under a legal obligation to take action under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, however, formal action is always the last resort."

Sue Hammond does finish her letter with the assurance that investigations have now ceased and no further action will be taken. Personally speaking, I am not satisfied that the monitoring exercise is sufficiently impartial, being undertaken by the complainant and not a third party, but there seems little that can be done about the way the Council works. Anyway, thanks for the show of solidarity throughout the village and it was a real pleasure to meet so many of you whose paths would not normally cross mine.

Christine.

Dear Editors.

I would just like to add my penn'orth to the village wide discussion regarding the criminal activities of certain birds (feathered variety).

The protest from "whomever" about the crowing, beggars belief and is not worthy of further comment. But I am seriously concerned that Breckland Council should feel it necessary to pursue the matter with such misplaced vigour, employing listening devices, which I am reliably informed, cost in excess of £30,000, and upsetting a valued member of our community; just to learn something that all good country folk have known forever, cockerels greet the dawn of a new day with joyous crowing.

Much better than the continuous whine of miserable urbanites, permanently dissatisfied with country life they freely chose to adopt.

Yours: Country Bumpkin.

NB. Names and addresses supplied on all these letters.
No more letters on this subject will be printed.

OVINGTON V. H. TRIUMPHS AGAIN.

In June this year Ovington Village Hall management committee sent a team of intellectually challenged, mixed gender but dedicated contestants to Toftwood Village Hall for the annual Breckland Village Hall Association quiz. There, against all odds, they then defeated the cream of Breckland in an all categories, mind numbing quiz. They are now in possession of a magnificent trophy, which can be seen by appointment at select times during the week. Spurred on by their success they entered in the countywide Village Hall Association quiz held in Necton Village Hall in September. The competitiveness of the combatants was intense, leading to a nail biting, buttock clenching last round, where, playing their joker our team successfully knocked out some of the worthy Opponents and came fourth. Gosh it was close. Our congratulations to the team for their sterling efforts in putting Ovington on the map yet again.

SAVE MONEY.

Once again we are selling Spree Booklets in aid of Village Hall funds. This year's book of vouchers has many new restaurants and outlets, some of them outside Norwich. For example Ye Olde Buck at Honingham, The Taste of Oz at Ringland, Rose of India at Attleborough, The Bridge at Lenwade. There are also many new ones in Norwich – very useful if you are trudging round the shops before Christmas! There are numerous offers which would entertain children, including Bewilderwood, Pettits, Sea Life Centre, Colchester Zoo, Bressingham, Go Ape, Thetford, Pleasurewood Hills, Thrigby Hall. Altogether there are thousands of pounds worth of vouchers, but if you only use three or four you can easily recoup the cost of the booklets which is held at £22, a proportion of which goes direct to our Village Hall. They are valid until October 1st 2009 and make a great Christmas present. Please ring Christine on 885848 if you would like to have a look at a Spree book or find out more about them.

POPPY APPEAL

Pansy and Sheila Johnson will be collecting during daylight hours for the Poppy Appeal from **Saturday October 25th** for two weeks. Last year the collection exceeded all expectations, so let's endeavour to do even better this year, especially in view of how many are suffering in the past and present conflicts.

Pansy and Sheila

DEADLINE DAY for the **DECEMBER** edition of the **ORACLE** is **NOVEMBER 19th**

HALL BOOKINGS - please contact
Christine on 889920

Editors

Christine at Saham Road	Tel 885848
Grace at 31 The Street	Tel 882246

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM FOR OVINGTON LOTTERY 2009

First Name(s) and Surname.....

Address.....

Tel No.....

Membership is £12 per annum. Payment enclosed: Cash or Cheque and return to:-
Grace at 31 The Street Ovington by **5th January 2009 latest.**

If paying by cheque, please make payable to 'Ovington Village Hall.'