

# OVINGTON ORACLE

FEBRUARY 2009

2/09

## Hi everyone

We are well into the New Year now so, OK, who's still sticking to their New Year resolutions? Don't forget "Honesty is the best policy" so admit it if you have strayed from the straight and narrow.

We have. ... sadly.

But moving on, we have heard a rumour that a plan for the summer period is being formulated to put Ovington on the map in a horticultural sense, no details as yet but you will be kept informed HERE. Might be a good idea tho' to perhaps look to tidying up the odd spot around the village just in case we are entered into a best-kept village competition or similar. We await developments on these proposals; rest assured you will be the first to know.

## FEBRUARY DIARY

Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Feb 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Safer Neighbourhood	7.30pm*
Feb 4 <sup>th</sup>	Gardening Club	7.45pm
Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>	Sausage/Mash Bash	7.30pm
Feb 9 <sup>th</sup>	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>	Cheese/Wine	7.30pm*
Feb 16 <sup>th</sup>	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Feb 17 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Group	7.45pm
Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Feb 24 <sup>th</sup>	Village Hall AGM	7.30pm

Held in the village hall unless marked\*

## SAUSAGE & MASH BASH – FRIDAY 6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 7.30 pm

If you haven't already bought your ticket for this, you may be too late! Ring Christine on **885848** a.s.a.p. to grab those last few remaining seats. Give your beloved a night off from slaving over the hot stove and bring them down to the Village Hall for a 2 course meal. At only £5 a head, it's better value than a takeaway - and we'll do the washing up! Come on down and check out the improvements to the hall. All profit from the supper and raffle will go towards further refurbishment works.

**April 4<sup>th</sup>** Starter & Pudding supper

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>** Quiz & Buffet Supper.

Christine R (885848) would love to hear from you if you wish to join us on **April 4<sup>th</sup>** for supper or if you wish to enter a team of four people for the Quiz and Supper on **May 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

## VILLAGE HALL AGM

The Village Hall Committee invite everyone in Ovington to the AGM on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 pm in the village hall. If you would like to stand for election to the committee, new members are always very welcome, but don't be put off attending if not. All offers of help are gratefully received throughout the year, even if you don't have sufficient time to serve on the committee and attend regular meetings. There are always opportunities to become involved in village events. After the official business, a refreshing cuppa will be served and then the new committee will have a short meeting afterwards. A great deal of effort; time (and money!) has been lavished on the old village hall in the last few months. We hope that many villagers will take this opportunity to come and see for themselves what improvements have been made already and discuss future plans.

The village hall is the only facility of its kind in Ovington and needs a dedicated team of helpers to ensure its survival. We are trying to make it an attractive venue that Ovington can be proud of – a place where people can meet and enjoy a variety of activities.

Christine Reilly

## LOTTERY

The next time you buy your National Lottery ticket or pop into the local shop for a scratch card, think about the odds of actually winning and to where the money *really* goes. A sizeable chunk goes to Camelot - 'admin' charges and fat cat salaries - not to the good causes.

For only £1 a month, you could join the Ovington Lottery, where the odds of winning are extremely favourable. You also have the guarantee that 50% of the fund is paid out as prize money and the remaining 50% benefits the Village Hall. Prizes are drawn monthly and paid in cash - the more members there are, the higher the prizes. OK, you will not become a millionaire overnight, but the chances of winning £5 or even £10 is much higher than with Camelot. If you wish to join the lottery for 2009 you have missed the January draw. The cost will now be £11.00. Ring Grace (882246) for further details.

## JANUARY 2009 LOTTERY RESULTS

£10 No. 53 Linda Murray  
£5 No. 50 Denis Todd

## CHURCH NEWS.

### Church Rota February.

<b>Feb 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9am Holy Communion</b>
Steward	Mr. D. Pritchard
Lessons	Mr D. Pritchard, Mrs. A. Johnson
Flowers	Mrs. B. Hicks
<b>Feb 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>9am Morning Prayer</b>
Steward	Mr. R. Akister.
Lessons	Mr. R. Akister, Mrs. P. Westwood.
Flowers	Mrs. A. Akister
<b>Each Thursday 8 am, Said Communion.</b>	

Thank you to all who helped in any way to make the Church look so beautiful for the Festive Season. It was so good to welcome over 50 people to the Carols by Candlelight Service and a good number on Christmas Morning.

### OVINGTON GARDENING CLUB

The 2009 programme began with a photographic visit to Switzerland to view alpine plants in their own location. The enthusiasm of Tony Goode for these special plants and bulbs, which he grows mostly from seed in his garden and greenhouses, was obvious as he compared his plants with the same species in their alpine habitat. He explained the different methods by which the plants survived the extreme cold and deep snow and how to grow them in the cold and wet winters in the UK.

The next meeting will be at **7.45pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February** when the subject will be "Vegetable Growing" by John Bridge. If you are interested in gardening, please come along to Ovington Village Hall and find out more about gardening and us. Subscription is £5 a year or if you only wish to come for the odd meeting the charge is £1.00. For further information, please contact Ed on 01953 885848 or Carol on 01760 440719.

### WELCOME.

We offer a warm Ovington welcome to Iain and Jan who have recently moved into The Street, and we really look forward to meeting and greeting you at some of our Village gatherings. We are a very friendly lot here, with just one weakness, we love our food. So if you like a good nosh, then you have come to the right place.

A warm welcome also the folk who have recently moved into Crown Crescent, we have not met you yet but look forward to having that pleasure in the near future. We extend the same invitation to you, to join us at any of our varied events in the village held throughout the year.

### LADIES GROUP.

The Ladies Group ended 2008 with their Christmas social on December 16<sup>th</sup>. All members brought a plate of food and what a fantastic array of food we had. Thank you ladies. This was followed by some fun games.

The year's competition winners were 1<sup>st</sup> Angela Wynne, 2<sup>nd</sup> Betty Jones, 3<sup>rd</sup> Hilda Kiddell.

So 2008 ended on a very high and happy note.

Ovington Ladies Group started 2009 with Sylvia Palmer from Weight Watchers coming and giving us some advice on food. We had a very entertaining evening and thoroughly enjoyed the Savoury Flapjack and Pear and Chocolate cake she had made for us to try. During the evening she cooked some Spicy Prawns with Bulgar Wheat, which was delicious. It was nice to see so many members enjoying our first meeting of 2009.

On **FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY** Lyndia and Chris Lewis will kindly open their home (1 Church Road) for our annual Cheese and Wine evening. It begins at 7.30pm and we shall be delighted to see members, their husbands/partners and also any guests who would like to join us.

The Ladies Group are always looking for new members, so if you have just come to live in Ovington or maybe you have lived in the village for some time, we would be so pleased for you to join our informal and friendly group. Annual subscription is only £6 and includes tea and coffee at the meetings. The meetings begin at 7.45pm.

**February 17<sup>th</sup>** Marie-Anne will be coming to our meeting to tell us how she finds Truffles in the countryside with her dog. It should be very interesting as I think few people know much about this subject. The competition is something beginning with T.

### Ladies Group Fundraising events for 2009

**Friday April 17<sup>th</sup>** Annual Dinner. 7pm for 7.30pm  
Venue to be decided

**Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup>** Pub Walk. 6.30pm.  
Pub to be decided.

**Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup>** Coffee Morning. 10.30am to 12.30pm. BKPO Ann and Richard Akister to include a cake stall & bring and buy.

**Saturday August 22<sup>nd</sup>** BBQ. 6pm.  
BKPO Christine and John Hardy

I will now list the meetings that will be in the hall for 2009

January 20th, February 17th, March 17th,  
June 16th, July 21st, September 15th, October 20th,  
November 17th and December 15th

Angela

## PARISH COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the Parish Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan the Clerk read a selection of letters thanking the P. C. for their support and donations over the past year. Of particular interest was the letter from the new Rainbow Project recently started in Watton, this is seen as being a positive step forward in providing suitable facilities for the young people of Watton and surrounding villages. We in Ovington have several youngsters who the Council feel sure will benefit from utilising the facilities at "The Surge" the name of the building, which the Rainbow Project has acquired. The old doctors surgery to be exact.

Planning applications were considered with objections being made regarding further new development on a greenfield site at Rose Farm. The Council had received sufficient expressions of interest in the village allotment project to move ahead and investigate the possibility of acquiring a suitable parcel of land to accommodate them. If anyone of a philanthropic mind has the odd acre of good arable land to lend, sell or rent (at a peppercorn rate) then contact Councillor John Hardy on 889920.

The council also agreed to undertake a more proactive role from now on, working towards a plan for Ovington that will be of benefit to the community in future years. Once again the Council will always welcome constructive ideas on how you think Ovington should move ahead.

The first steps towards setting up a PC Website are well under way, and the PC hope to bring you news of what to insert after the traditional "www" as soon as possible.

No members of the public, District Council, or police were able to attend.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Village Hall on **March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm**. As always everybody is welcome to attend.

## DECEMBER RAINFALL

December 2008	44.5mm or 1.76ins
December 2007	72.5mm or 2.9ins
December 1998	90.0mm or 3.6ins

Average per day for 2008 = 2.47mm or 0.098 inches

Average per month for 2008 = 76.5mm or 3 inches

Thanks Ted

## Silly, but fun:

The God of Thunder went for a ride  
Upon his favourite filly  
'I'm THOR', he cried.  
The horse replied,  
'You forgot your thaddle, thilly!'  
(From a book by Frances Fyfield)

## VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT

The Toilet area has now been painted.

Our thanks to Richard for redecorating the Committee Room and to the anonymous person for donating the carpet, which has now been fitted.

The entrance hall will be re plastered during the next few weeks.

The main hall needs one heater to replace one that is u/s. We shall need to replace the remainder at a later date. To prevent further damage to the walls caused by chairs and tables it is thought that adding lengths of dado rail before decorating the main hall would solve this problem.

Decorating, or to put it in simple terms, repainting the main hall will need to be carried out by professionals as the need for specialised access equipment, necessary to comply with 'elf & safety regulations, is felt to be outside the fields of expertise normally displayed by the committee members.

The French Drain around the Hall, which has been proven to eliminate wall damp, still has to be dug. Also the Door on the outside storage room needs to be replaced.

As you can see a lot of hard work has been done on our Village Hall, but there is still a lot to do, which with the (hopeful) onset of better weather, will improve working conditions, it has been a touch parky these last few weeks.

Signs that spring is coming are indicated by the snowdrops, which are starting to bloom in the village hall grounds.

## THANKS

The Village Hall committee wish to thank the Ovington Ladies Group for their donation of £100.00 and Christine R for her donation towards the refurbishment.

## Has a black cat crossed your path recently?

It is generally thought that country folk are more superstitious than most. Certainly, my grandmother, who was born in Ashill, was a very superstitious woman and we were raised on a variety of 'ancient' rhymes and beliefs. ('See a pin and pick it up, all the day you'll have good luck. See a pin and let it lay, you will have bad luck all day.' - I always assumed that the bad luck would be rather obvious if you trod on the offending spike.)

As children, we had to avoid walking under ladders, breaking mirrors (7 years' bad luck), crossing knives, putting shoes on the table, opening an umbrella indoors or mending clothes while wearing them for fear of some dreadful outcome. Why my grandmother was so superstitious could possibly have stemmed from the fact that she was

born on the 13<sup>th</sup> of the month, traditionally an 'unlucky' number, although probably a Victorian invention like so many other superstitions. I can remember her refusing to leave the house, especially if her birthday fell on a Friday, in case some accident befell her. For some unknown reason she insisted that bluebells must never enter the house and the sight of red and white flowers together would reduce her to tears until she had placed them in separate rooms. This seems again to be a Victorian invention relating to 'blood and bandages'.

The 'unlucky 13' idea seems only to have predated the 19<sup>th</sup> century with regard to 13 sitting down to eat at the same table. However, so strong is the feeling about the number 13 that some councils will not number a new house as 13, either changing it to 12a or 14. In fact my mother used to live at a No. 14 in Watton, which should really have been 13. Luckily, she never knew this or it might have upset her.

There are many superstitions peculiar to Norfolk. One dating from 1895 concerns cockerels crowing: 'Once for a wedding, Twice for a birth, Three times for sorrow, Four times for mirth.'

Widespread in Britain is the belief that a cock crowing at the door of the farmhouse betokened a visitor or news from afar' and cockerels are generally seen as messengers. Another Norfolk superstition involves the New Moon. If you turn your money over while looking at it, you will have money all year. We did have an elderly aunt who used to embarrass us regularly with this one by swinging her handbag over her head on seeing the New Moon! (I must remember to embarrass my own daughter with that one)

Perhaps readers have particular superstitions they would like to share, or memories of old family practices - such as letting the Old Year out at the back door before welcoming in the New Year at the front.

As spring approaches, be prepared for the arrival of the cuckoo. One tradition relates to your financial state when hearing its first call: if you have money in your pocket, you will have money all year (or the reverse, no money will lead to a lean year). But an ancient superstition will have me reaching for the earplugs. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the number of notes you hear in the cuckoo's first call predicts how many more years you will live. Presumably, life expectancy in the 14<sup>th</sup> century was lower than today. Personally, I'd rather not know!

## **SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PANEL**

Meeting will be held at Wayland House on **Tuesday February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7.30pm.** It's your neighbourhood, come and have your say.

If you have any antisocial behaviour problems, criminal damage, neighbour problems or anything this panel can help you with, please go along to this meeting or contact the team on **0845 456 4567** or email on **SNTWatton@norfolk.pnn.police.uk** or visit their website **[www.safernorfolk.co.uk](http://www.safernorfolk.co.uk)**

### **What my Mother taught me: -**

- Time travel:** "If you don't straighten up I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"
- Religion:** "You'd better pray that this will come out of the carpet"
- Osmosis:** "Shut your mouth and eat your supper"
- Genetics:** "You're just like your father"
- Roots;** "Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"
- Justice:** "One day you will have kids of your own, and I hope they turn out just like you"

**DEADLINE DAY for the MARCH Oracle is February 18<sup>th</sup> 2009, 12 noon.**

**Village Hall available for hire – Please ring Christine on 889920.**

### **Editors**

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

This space is left blank for you to compile your remembrances of unusual superstitions from your past life, or even current ones if you still think twice before carrying out some action where a calamity may befall.