

THE OVINGTON ORACLE

MAY 2009

5/09

The merry month of May is almost upon us, what will it bring this year, for a start the daffodils have completed their flowering cycle so there should be no more unauthorised picking of said blooms. Our splendid PC, along with most others in the village, have taken a dim view of the folk who have helped themselves to armfuls of our blooms and are leaving no stone unturned in efforts to deter folk from stealing our property. Despite what the law of the land says we agree that it is still stealing from you the people of Ovington. It is you who paid for the bulbs; many of you have participated in the planting, with the result that the golden welcome to residents and visitors alike is something to be proud of. The PC Chairman has said that to remove a carload is beyond the pale and will not be tolerated.

What are your thoughts on this matter? Do you agree that anyone should be allowed to help him or herself? Perhaps you feel the whole exercise is a waste of time, or are you of the opinion that the taking of daf's is in actual fact theft from you personally?

Why not make your feelings known at the annual **Parish Meeting on Thursday May 14th at 7.30pm in the village Hall**. This is a chance for everybody in the Village to talk about any matter that concerns you, heap praise on those who deserve it, sing a solo, beat a drum; anything (within reason) goes. Don't miss this golden opportunity to state your case.

MAY DIARY

May 2 nd	Quiz/Supper 7pm for 7.30pm
May 4 th	Bowls Club 1.45pm
May 11 th	Bowls Club 1.45pm
May 14 th	Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm
May 18 th	Bowls Club 1.45pm
May 19 th	Ladies Pub Walk *
May 23 rd	Garden Club Coffee Morning 10am
May 25 th	Bowls Club 1.45pm
June 2 nd	Collection for Fete 7.00pm *
June 4 th	Final PreFete Meeting 2.00pm *
June 4 th	European & County Council Elections 7am – 10pm
June 13 th	Ovington Fete/BBQ 3.00pm

All events in the Village hall except marked *

QUIZ & SUPPER EVENING.

The Village Hall committee are pleased to announce that this event is now fully booked. They would advise teams to be in the hall no later than 7.15pm so that the contest can be underway by 7.30pm prompt, apparently the supper part of the evening is destined to overshadow all suppers that have gone before and may take time to appreciate before consuming. May the best team (Ovington ???) win.

WELCOME FUNDING.

The Village Hall Committee were overjoyed to receive a much welcome donation from the Wayland Show recently.

We all know that the expenditure over the past six months to improve the facilities has been higher than normal so the donation of £500 is gratefully received and thanks must go to the Wayland Show committee.

Our grateful thanks also go to the former 'Ovington Entertainers Group' for giving us a donation of £240.00 towards the ongoing expenditure in the Village hall.

STARTERS & PUDS EVENING

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank the select bunch of diners who supported the recent Starters & Puds Evening and helped to raise just over £184 for village hall funds. Much merriment was heard in between the more serious parts of the evening, i.e., tucking into a wide variety of dishes and the mini quiz helped to keep folk awake after all the over indulgence. We would also like to thank all the volunteer kitchen staff who so kindly stepped in to help with the mountain of washing up. One (no names mentioned here, but I am open to bribery, Alan!) even found it educational and can now tell the difference between a side plate and a saucer!

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

Volunteers are needed urgently for help before, during and probably after the **VILLAGE FETE** on **June 13th** if you have creative talents, you may like to start producing items for the craft stall. Anyone with culinary skills could make jams, marmalades, sweets or cakes. If you have green fingers, plants and flowers are needed for the plant stall.

We will be out and about collecting donated items for the raffle and tombola stalls from **7pm on Tuesday June 2nd**. If you are going to be out that night, please leave items (clearly labelled!) on your doorstep or contact someone on the Committee beforehand.

As well as bottles and prizes, we also need books and toys (good condition only, please), bric-a-brac and china for the Aunt Sally. If you have any unwanted presents suitable for the gift stall, we would also be grateful to receive them.

On the day itself, volunteers are required to help set up in the morning, clear up afterwards and to man stalls and games. Even if you could only spare an hour or so, it would still be a great help. The stalls this year will be: bric-a-brac, books and toys, cakes, gifts, crafts, tombola, raffle, plants and win a hamper. There will also be various games to test your skills and the Aunt Sally to relieve stress.

Refreshments are high on the list, as befits any major event in Ovington, with tea and cakes available throughout and a BBQ from 5pm for those wishing to stay on and socialise. Only soft drinks can be offered, so it's BYOB if you want anything stronger.

A full list of stalls and stallholders will be printed next month. If you are able to help in any way, please contact one of the following Committee members: Ed on 885848, Grace/Rod on 882246, Christine H on 889920, Richard on 889916 or Marie Ana on 885019. Please help to make this a successful and enjoyable village event - proceeds will be split equally between Church and Village Hall, as both buildings need funds for refurbishment projects.

FINAL PRE-FETE MEETING.

Will be held on **June 4th** at 30 The Street **NOT** the village hall as it is European Election Day.

APRIL LOTTERY

£10.00	No. 25	Jarrold Tomkins
£ 5.00	No. 58	Jill Malton

OVINGTON GARDENING CLUB

Our speaker for April was Mrs Hilary Reid, who entertained us with a humorous and informative talk on 'Making a Wild-life Pond'. She started from a space at the edge of her patio and took us through all the stages of design, excavation, filling, planting and maintenance and ended up with the pond as the main feature of her garden, which attracts visitors for charity open days.

Our next event on **Saturday 23rd May, 10am to 12 noon**, is our **Coffee Morning and Plant Sale**, which is being held at Redwood House, Ovington (just past the T-junction to the church and village hall) and **visitors will be very welcome**. For further information, call Ed on 01953 885848 or Carol on 01760 440719.

SAD FAREWELL.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Mrs Iris Mingaye at the age of 92 following an unfortunate fall at her home. Iris was a very private and determined lady but always gave any visitors a warm welcome. She had led an independent lifestyle since the death of her husband five years ago.

A simple but moving service to celebrate her life was held in St Johns Church on April 9th followed by interment in the Churchyard.

WELCOME.

The usual effusive warm Ovington welcome to our new residents (names not yet to hand) who have recently moved into The Street.

As always we look forward to meeting and greeting you and hope to see you at some of our many social gatherings. We are sure your stay in our quite delightful village will be a happy one.

FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

A start has been made on cutting the grass again this year, after an initial tidy up of the surrounds in March. For which the Parochial Church Council is very grateful.

Sam is in the process of sorting out a rota for the mowing, but has told us that a few more volunteers would be more than welcome.

There have been some favourable comments by visitors on how well kept the Churchyard is, helped no doubt by the ever increasing display of cowslips.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Dear Mesdames.

May I through your newsletter express my grateful thanks to the willing and joyful group of volunteers who helped with the litter picking last week.

We did not pick up the quantity of rubbish as in previous years, so perhaps the message is getting across that Ovington is not the nation's dumping ground.

Nothing goes on in this village without there being a food fest attached so thanks to the ladies who turned up trumps with the catering for the after pick bun fight. (The food was too good to throw about. Ed.). It was nice to find plenty of soap and hot water in the Village hall to sluice away the day's grime.

I have since heard that a couple of young ladies are often seen collecting rubbish on their walks around the village. Hope you wear gloves girls. Thanks to you also, a brilliant example.

Thanks again folks, nice to see that there still exists a sense of pride in our community, and hey! Wasn't the weather great?

Rod Rumsby.

DOG WALKERS.

A point to ponder here, just because a field has not recently been cultivated and is looking more like a meadow that does not mean it has become common land, it is only on a set aside regime and could be returned to cultivation at any time. The two fields behind the sewage works are prime examples.

One advantage of set aside land is that it gives an opportunity for wildlife to re-establish itself, especially at this time of year when ground nesting birds such as skylark and pheasant welcome the ground cover and quietness.

Therefore it would seem polite in the first instance, before letting dogs run loose over such fields, to contact the owner and seek his / her permission to walk them. Should this be granted then it is also advisable to not allow the dogs to run free whilst nesting birds are present but to keep the dogs under control. The majority of dog owners in Ovington are very responsible and keep their dogs on leads and clear up behind them, so let's all follow this pattern please.

TABLE TOP SALE

We are thinking of holding a table top sale in the village hall, possibly in July. If you would be interested in making money by selling your goods, give Christine R a ring on 885848.

WATTON MEDICAL PRACTICE.

Further to the small piece in last months Oracle expressing concerns over the quality of service offered by the Watton practice, the Parish Council have taken note of the complaints from those affected and will be determining their course of action soonest.

OVINGTON'S HISTORY & HERITAGE.

The Wayland Partnership have recently been awarded a grant to enable a project to be funded whereby all the villages in the Wayland area will be encouraged and given help to research and document the history of their villages. Professional Guidance and advice is available from Sue White who is based at the Wayland Partnership offices in Watton. The result of the combined research will be in the form of a book and or IT equivalent which will be available for future generations to study, giving them an idea of village life throughout the ages. Much information can be gleaned from Parish records and archives stored in the County records or Castle Museum. But it is important to collect and record the memories of people who have lived in the area for most of their lives. This is living history and it would be a shame to lose it.

Sue White and Rod have already undertaken some walks around Ovington, looking at features that are indicative of life as far back as the Bronze or Iron ages. Should anyone be interested in joining in the research or have interesting stories of Ovington of old, then, in the first instance, contact **Rod (882246)**

With the help of Sue there are visits planned to the Archaeological unit at Gressenhall, where unique and high quality aerial photographs of Ovington are bound to arouse interest, showing the changes made to the field layouts coupled with the increase, and some cases disappearance of, housing over the past 60+ years. Look forward to hearing your stories and reminiscences.

LADIES GROUP

On Tuesday April 21st our speaker was Gloria Daines talking about 1940 Fashions. It was very interesting especially as many of us could remember a lot of the clothes etc that Gloria had brought to show us. Her partner Gerald also came along and was wearing his naval uniform. Gloria was also in authentic 1940's clothes. It certainly gave us a real feel for the era. We all had a very enjoyable evening.

Tuesday May 19th

The meeting this month is our annual pub walk. Once again we are going to Thompson Chequers. We have chosen this pub for a second year running, as it is such a nice walk and just the right length. We look forward to seeing you there. Please be at the Chequers by 6pm. Hopefully we shall be able to leave by 6.15pm and be back by 7.30pm. Anyone who is unable to do the walk will still be very welcome to join us for the meal. Please be at the Chequers by 7.30pm. If you haven't made your choice of food please ring Angela (01953 884594) to let her know. All we need now is for the sun to shine. If the weather is wet and we can't do the walk we shall all assemble at the Chequers at 7.30pm.

Please mark your diaries for **June 27th** when the Ladies Group are holding a coffee morning at Ann and Richard Akister's from **1030am – 12.30pm**. This is one of our major fundraisers, which are becoming more important as speakers' charges seem to be going up all the time.

MARCH RAINFALL

March 2009	59mm or 2.36ins
March 2008	119.5mm or 4.78ins
March 1999	78mm or 3.12ins

Once again thank you Ted
I bet the gardeners among you are already praying for rain after the relatively dry March.

EUROPEAN AND COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION.

This will take place in the Village Hall on **June 4th 2009** from **7am to 10pm**. This is, in part, to elect your district councillor, so it is recommended you cast your vote. Democracy at work folks!

DAFT BITS.

A couple decide they have to tighten their belts, as they are a bit strapped for cash.

The wife says, "You spend £16 per week on beer, this has to stop!"

A week later the husband says, "I've noticed you're spending £28 a week on make up!"

Wife "Yes, but that's to make me look beautiful, sexy and attractive"

Husband -- "That's what the beer was for!"

Drive in banking was invented so that new cars could see their real owners.

For Lexophiles: -

A bicycle cannot stand-alone, it is two tired!

A will is a dead giveaway!

A backward poet writes inverse!

In a democracy it is your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes!

If you don't pay the exorcist you can get repossessed!

You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it!

HIRE OF HALL

Give Christine Hardy a ring on 889920 if you wish to book the village hall. Don't forget Ovington residents only pay 50% of the normal rates

DEADLINE DATE FOR JUNE EDITION of the ORACLE is 12 noon on May 22nd 2009.

EDITORS

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

That's all folks.

This space was left available for your contributions of stories, queries, boasts, self-acclaim, retribution, sales, wants, complaints, congratulations, advance notices of, weddings, christenings etc. We will try again next month. Ed.