

THE OVINGTON ORACLE

JANUARY

1/10

TO ALL OUR READERS- WE WISH YOU A HAPPY & HEALTHY 2010

Hope all our readers had a wonderful Christmas, we had planned to get this episode to you before the Christmas Break, so that you could complement the Queen's Speech with a quiet read of scintillating prose? But, and there's always a but isn't there, the printers are having an extended holiday, the Mid Norfolk Times, which is co-delivered will not be out until late December for the same reasons. So our delivery team will have an excuse to work off some of their Christmas excesses rushing around the village, before starting the feasting all over again at the New Year. Better be careful what we say otherwise it might be the editors themselves you see thrusting these through letter boxes if the team "cock the nark"----- that's a term you don't hear much of these days. Again, we wish you all you wish for yourselves in 2010. And thank you for reading.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

It may have been a little early, but the Christmas spirit was alive and well at the Grand Bazaar held on December 5th. The Village Hall was filled with attractive stalls and decorations, creating a festive atmosphere enjoyed by the many villagers and visitors who attended. The 'soup kitchen' was extremely popular with everyone. There were bargains to be snapped up, ideas for Christmas gifts, hand crafted items and prizes to be won. A fantastic amount of **£1158.70** was raised - to be split between the church and village hall - for which thanks are due: to the many volunteers who cooked, baked, washed up, manned stalls and helped in so many ways (remaining cheerful throughout!); to everyone who donated items for sale or as prizes.

QUIZ

Many thanks to Janet for devising and running the difficult quiz which kept so many of us occupied throughout November. Unfortunately only two people returned their quiz. The winner was Rod with 15 correct answers out of 20. £14.00 was added to the Bazaar total.

The answers to the quiz:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Richard the Lion | 2. Bloody Mary |
| 3. Florence Nightingale | 4. Battle of Barnet |
| 5. Chatsworth | 6. Runnymede |
| 7. The Wash | 8. Pudding Lane |
| 9. Jane Seymour | 10. Richard 3 rd |
| 11. Wellington | 12. Neville |
| 13. Oates | 14. Thomas Paine |
| 15. Norwich Cathedral | 16. Eleanor of Aquitaine |
| 17. John Bunyan | 18. Constable |
| 19. Wallace | 20. Amy Robsart |

JANUARY DIARY 2010

Jan 4 th	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Jan 6 th	Gardening Club	7.45pm
Jan 11 th	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Jan 18 th	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Jan 19 th	Ladies Group	7.45pm
Jan 25 th	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Jan 27 th	Parish Council	7.30pm
Feb 20 th	Soup n Spud Soiree	7 for 7.30
Feb 23 rd	Village Hall AGM	7.30pm

VILLAGE HALL SUPPER

We were planning to hold a supper with a 'European' flavour on 23rd January but, due to a clash with other local events that weekend, have decided to postpone that particular event until later in the spring. Instead, the village hall committee will be presenting a '**Soup 'n Spud Soirée**' on Saturday, **20th February at 7 for 7.30pm** in the village hall. For the modest outlay of only £6 you will be able to feast from the following menu:

Choice of homemade soups
Baked Jacket Potato with a choice of hot or cold fillings
Choice of desserts... followed by tea or coffee.

For your entertainment, there will be some sort of fiendishly easy quiz, a raffle and whatever else we can dream up in the meantime inspired by the festive haze!
Tickets will be available from Christine R (885848) in the New Year, but don't delay in booking a place, as space is limited.

OVINGTON GARDENING CLUB

The December meeting was the AGM when the reports from the chair and the treasurer gave a positive view of the club's year. The election of officials was followed by the presentation of the full programme of events for 2010. After the meeting, a quiz resulted in a tiebreak situation and the prize was donated by the eventual winners to the village hall Bazaar. The meeting closed with a fine selection of food with tea and coffee.

The January meeting will be on **Wednesday 6th January at 7.45pm** in the village hall, when the subject will be 'Practical Self-Sufficiency' by local organic gardener, Terry Rands. Membership for the whole year costs only £5, but visitors are always welcome and further details can be obtained from Ed on 01953 885848 or Carol on 01760 440719.

POPPY APPEAL

Well done Ovington, you raised £165.73 for the poppy appeal this year. Pansy, Sheila, Jane and Richard, thank you all for donating so generously.

NOVEMBER RAINFALL

November 2009	124.5mm	4.98ins
November 2008	92.00mm	3.68ins
November 1999	57.00mm	2.28ins

Once again thanks for keeping us up to date with the rainfall.

OVINGTON DECEMBER LOTTERY

£30.	No.23	Lyndia Lewis
£30.	No. 7	David Carr
£20.	No.28	Christine Reilly
£20	No.27	Rod Rumsby
£15	No.39	Simon Hardy
£10	No.19	Wendy Kennaugh
£10	No.26	Joyce Woods
£ 5	No.45	Ed Reilly
£ 5	No.17	Chris Lewis

I have had 18 people join so far, so please don't forget to let me have your lottery money as soon as possible. The more people who join the lottery, the more money we can hand out to the members.

The 2009 Lottery

Monies received	£690. 00	
Plus Interest	<u>9. 52</u>	
	699. 52	
Less Licence Fee -	<u>20. 00</u>	
	£679. 52	679.52
To members -	£340. 00	
To Village Hall -	£339. 52	<u>679. 52</u>
C/fwd to 2010		NIL

LADIES GROUP

Members of Ovington Ladies Group enjoyed a Christmas Social on Tuesday 15th December. All enjoyed a Fish and Chip Supper and mince pies made by the committee. Dot and Grace had Happy Birthday sang to them as their birthdays were on Wednesday 16th and Saturday 19th. After the meal a game of pass the parcel (with forfeits) was enjoyed by all members and this was followed by a short quiz. Ann announced the winners of the monthly competition. Rosemary Philpot and Betty Jones were joint winners and will hold the trophy for 6 months each. Christine Hardy was second and Hilda Kiddell was third. Ann gave all winners a small prize. Well done to the winners and thank you to all members who bring an entry to the meetings. Members made their way home at 9.30pm. It was a very pleasant evening.

Tuesday 19th January 2010

The first meeting of 2010 will see Terry Rands giving us a talk on 'The Organic Garden at Chanticleer'. As usual the meeting will be in the Village Hall and will begin at 7.45pm. Please note that subscriptions will be due and will be remain as last year - £6.00. We have decided that as we completed the alphabet for the competition we will be having a theme of colours each month.

The colour for January is BLUE. So please ladies find something coloured blue for the competition. The competition has been really successful in the last couple of years and I hope the new theme will be as popular.

The Ladies Group Committee would like to welcome all ladies of the village, no matter what your age, to our monthly meetings. We are very informal and nothing like the WI. So why not come along and enjoy the company of your fellow villagers.

The meetings begin at 7.45pm, unless otherwise stated in the Oracle, and are held in the Village Hall.

THANK YOU

Instead of sending cards, we are donating to a Charity. We send our best wishes to you all for a Healthy and Peaceful New Year, and thank you all for the many cards we have received.

Grace and Rod

GET WELL

To all the residents of Ovington who have been in and out of hospital or ill at home this year, we do wish you a speedy recovery and better health in 2010.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE.

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in November during which meeting the budget for 2010 was set. With the recent furore regarding ridiculous claims by Councillors and MPs for expenses, it was fully expected that Ovington would turn out in force to see how much our councillors might be claiming. But no, not a soul, other than your reporter, came to the meeting, so it seems obvious that it matters not to Ovington, how the Council distributes your council tax. Either that or, one hopes, you have absolute faith in your Council's ethical attitude to public spending. Your faith was justified as after a deal of discussion, due consideration was given to the straitened times we are currently experiencing and for the second year running the Ovington portion of your council tax was reduced by some 10%. With donations to other organisations within the village being maintained at reasonable levels. It remains to be seen if the other authorities i.e. Breckland, NCC, Police authority, etc. follow suit. Optimism remains high!!!!

The allotment issue is still being onerously pursued by the council, there is a marked reluctance by the land owners to come to a decision about how they wish to apportion the rental for the land considered to be suitable for allotments. By the time this report hits your doormat one hopes that some dialogue may have been resumed.

CHURCH NEWS

CHURCH ROTA – JANUARY

Jan 10th	9 a.m. Holy Communion
Steward	Mr R Akister
Lessons	Mr R Akister, Mrs M Warwick
Flowers	Mrs A Akister
Jan 24th	9a.m. Holy Communion
Steward	Mrs P Westwood
Lessons	Mrs P Westwood, Mrs B Hicks
Flowers	Mrs J Lambert
Jan 31st	10.30am Group Holy Communion at Ashill

Each Thursday 8am, Said Communion

WELCOME

We give a warm welcome to little Melina who arrived on November 1st. Our congratulations to Mum Vanessa and Dad Stewart.

DAFT BITS.

A passenger in a taxi tapped the driver on the shoulder to ask him something.

The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb and stopped just three inches from a large plate glass shop window.

For a few moments everything was silent in the cab, then the driver said in a shaky voice. "Please don't ever do that again. You scared the living daylight out of me!"

The passenger who was also frightened, apologised and said he didn't realise a tap on the shoulder could frighten him so much.

The driver replied, "I'm sorry, it's really not your fault at all. Today is my first day driving a cab. For the last 24 years I've been driving a hearse"

A TRICKY QUESTION.

A murderer is condemned to death. He has to choose between three rooms.

The first is full of raging fires.

The second is full of assassins with loaded guns.

The third is full of lions that haven't eaten in three years.

Which room is the safest for him?

A small reward will be given to the first person to write in with the correct answer. The result, with winners name, will be in the next Oracle. Go for it, what have you got to lose?

DEADLINE DAY for the February edition of the **ORACLE** is **JANUARY 21st 12noon.**

VILLAGE HALL AVAILABLE TO HIRE

Special rates for those within the Village, ideal for functions, parties etc.

Please phone Christine Hardy on 889920.

Don't forget to let her know the dates of your Group meetings for 2010

Editors

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

Ovington - the Thankful Village

It has been brought to our notice that a certain Simon Knott (anyone know him?) has visited Ovington and decided to run it down online (see <http://www.norfolkchurches.co.uk/ovington/ovington.htm>)

"... This church is obviously not terribly important, and this village is not able, or even particularly discernible from those around it. However, it holds a special place in English history. Ovington is one of the so-called Thankful Villages. Out of the 20,000 or so English parishes which sent young men off to the slaughter of the First World War, only 31 got them all back again, and Ovington was one of them. Twelve boys out, and twelve boys back. It is the only Thankful Village in Norfolk."

How he decided that the church is unimportant, without even seeing inside it, is a mystery, not least to Chris Springford who has leapt to its defence in a letter to his brother - a padre in the army in Germany caring for the families of those lost or injured in the conflict in Afghanistan. Part of his letter is reprinted here.

"... It is a special place in the minds of the 14 or so people that turn out at 0800 hrs every Thursday for a said service of Holy Communion.

I thought you would like to know that this week, the names of 100 service people (killed this year) were read out by every member of the congregation during the service. This is one of the most moving moments I can recall and I do not think that there was a dry eye in the house.

The congregation is made up from people from the five local parishes ...

Each entry was read by name (rather than rank) and their family remembered.

We are conscious not only of those who lost their lives in this conflict, but also those who have returned home impaired in body, mind and spirit. They also are not forgotten, but positively remembered by the people - 'in this village of no importance'. (I guess those injured will number five or six times those killed - and they have the longer job of trying to overcome their individual traumas which, for many, will last the rest of their lives.)

We also remembered you in your work in caring for the families of the bereaved and injured as part of your ministry. So tell your servicemen and women and their families about this 'Thankful Village' in Norfolk and the fact that we have only lost one person to war (from the RAF during the second world war). Ovington continues to hold a similar place in English History for current conflicts and we are so thankful for all your efforts. We cannot begin to express our gratitude to those who give up so much to protect us. It is not taken for granted and we will continue to share and remember the pain of the losses incurred."

Membership Application Form for Ovington Lottery 2010

First Name(s)

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 2010

If paying by cheque, please make it payable to "Ovington Village Hall"