

THE OVINGTON ORACLE

MARCH 2010

2/10

Hi everyone,

What is the old saying about the month of March? If it comes in like a Lamb it will go out like a Lion. And, one suspects, vice versa.

January and February, have not been anything to write home about, so we can only hope that the Lamb account applies throughout March, because it will soon be time to get those little seeds shuffling about in the (hopefully) warming soil.

We did not get a single response to our little brain teasers last month, so either they were far too hard, or, much more likely, too simple and you treated them with the contempt they deserved, We shall have to endeavour to find something a bit more challenging, watch this space. (See page four) Well folks its onwards and upwards once again, please read on.

MARCH DIARY

1 st March	Bowls Club	1.45pm
3 rd March	Gardening Club	*4.00pm
8 th March	Bowls Club	1.45pm
15 th March	Bowls Club	1.45pm
16 th March	Ladies Group	7.45pm
20 th March	Village Litter Pick	*10.00am
22 nd March	Bowls Club	1.45pm
23 rd March	Annual Church Meeting	7.30pm
24 th March	Parish Council	7.30pm
29 th March	Bowls Club	1.45pm
17 th April	Concert in Church	7.00pm

In the Village hall unless marked*

WELCOME

A little bird tells me that a new baby boy, namely Oliver, arrived at the home of Kelly, Sam and Isabella recently. Our congratulations to you all.

LOTTERY WINNERS FOR FEBRUARY

£10.00	No 35	Christine Hardy
£ 5.00	No 47	Laura Tomkin

SUCCESSFUL SOIRÉE.

On Saturday 20th February the village hall was almost full again for the 'Soup 'n Spud Soirée' - a fancy name for an evening spent feeding our faces! We all had plenty to eat: homemade soups, baked spuds with all kinds of fillings and multifarious desserts.

So much for the New Year resolutions about dieting.

There was a cunning quiz (well done to the Eggheads at Oak Farm for their outstanding knowledge of films!) a bumper raffle and Richard entertained us with his rendition of 'Joyce, the Librarian'.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the Committee for their help in putting the evening together and making it such a success and the other guests who rolled up their sleeves and helped on the night. I had a great birthday and am so grateful nobody suggested giving me the bumps!

Christine

OVINGTON QUIZ

Don't forget to start swotting up and getting your teams together in preparation for the Annual Quiz on **Saturday 24th April 7pm for 7.30pm**. As usual, there will be a cold buffet supper to keep you going for a whole evening of brain teasing.

Tickets cost **£6 per head** and teams consist of four members.

Ring Christine R on 885848 to book your team in as soon as you can, as space is limited.

RAINFALL FOR JANUARY

January 2010	71.0mm or 2.84ins
January 2009	49.5mm or 1.89ins
January 2000	25.5mm or 1.02ins

Never mind global warming, how about global wetting?

Thanks again Ted.

LITTER PICK.

The annual "Village Clean Up" this year is scheduled to take place on **Saturday March 20th starting from the Village sign at 10.00pm**. All safety equipment, pickers, bags etc will be provided. As usual there will be light, but good, refreshments in the Village Hall afterwards. Also give you an opportunity to wash your hands, soap and water is included in the magnificent facilities available in the Hall.

There is no need to book a place, just turn up. It is advisable to wear stout footwear and warm clothing, especially if the current cold spell continues.

For further details contact this year's organiser, John Hardy Church Road or Rod Rumsby 31 The Street.

We have been informed that Miss Eleanor Armstrong is thinking that we should have a sponsor initiative this year, with people sponsoring pickers for the numbers of bags of rubbish collected. She has printed out some sponsorship forms and once again they are available from 31 The Street. Money raised will go for the Haiti Disaster Fund.

PARISH COUNCIL.

A meeting was held on 27th January 2010. Four Councillors and the Parish Clerk attended. There were no members of the public or the District Councillor present. Two items on the agenda warranted discussion, they being the allotment saga and the retention of the old Red Telephone Box.

At the time of the meeting the Parish Council were still awaiting further information from the Diocesan Board with regards to acquiring the land. The Council having had no public response to the request in last month's Oracle for the Ovington populace to comment on whether to retain or dispose of the old red Telephone Box, have decided therefore not to adopt the box and to allow B. T. to retain ownership and therefore responsibility for it.

The next Parish Council meeting, to which all members of the public are invited to attend, will be on **Wednesday 24th March** in the Village Hall starting promptly at **7.30pm**.

GARDENING CLUB

After a delayed start, the February meeting was a presentation of superb photographs of 'Gardens Great and Small' with a musical background and commentary by David Boulton.

The photographs demonstrated the skill of the professional photographer with beautiful pictures of gardens through the seasons, from stately homes to small residential gardens and were interspersed with detailed close-up photographs of plants, animals and insects - well worth waiting for!

The next meeting on Wednesday **3rd March** is an early visit to the spring garden of Mrs Pat Mansey at East Lode, Nursery Lane, Hockwold IP26 4ND and is at **4pm**. (Out on the A1065 towards Brandon, turn off right to Weeting, zigzag across the B1106, into the centre of Hockwold and turn left and then left again into Nursery Lane.) Note that there is a charge of £2 for this visit, so we hope that Spring arrives in time and there should be some unusual plants to see!

Contact Ed on 01953 885848 for further details or for transport.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES.

Breckland Environmental Health Department have issued a leaflet on how to deal with, or as a last resort, report nuisance complaints. A leaflet describing the means of doing this is displayed on the village notice board, but if you want a personal copy, see the PC Chairman at 31 The Street, who will be only too happy to provide you with a copy. Don't suffer in silence.

BRAIN TEASER ANSWERS.

- SLEEPLESSNESS
- CANNOT OVERTAKE THE LAST PERSON
- NONE OF THE LETTERS ARE REPEATED.

CHURCH NEWS

14th March 9.30am Mothering Sunday

A shortened Holy Communion Service.
Do come and join us for this special service

Tuesday 23rd March 7.30pm

Annual Parish Church Meeting to be held at 30 The Street. This is an open meeting for everyone interested in the life and upkeep of the Church to attend.

28th March 9.30am Palm Sunday

All Ages Family Service

Monday 29th March 7.30pm

Holy Communion

Each Thursday 8am

Said Holy Communion

Revd Jane writes

Thursday Mornings at Ovington

There's a crimson ball in the sky, the sun is just appearing on the horizon; all is still as I make my way across the churchyard. A deer is startled by my approach and the early morning bird song fills my ears. The smell of a fresh morning reaches my nostrils, then, as I approach the church door, the beautiful perfume of prayer makes itself known. We begin our service, the familiar words of the Prayer Book are said, there is the taste of bread and wine, "Do this in remembrance of me" and this gentle act of worship concludes in a blessing. My day begins with God, a gentle and prayerful beginning.

Our Service of Holy Communion at Ovington at 8.00am every Thursday is a wonderful start to the day.

We use the old words of the Prayer Book and they just wash over us, familiar to those of us who attended church years ago, but also strangely relevant to those of us who find them new and unfamiliar.

There is no music, a quiet spoken service of Holy Communion, with a gentle smell of incense (no clouds of billowing smoke, just a gentle lifting of our prayers, ascending like the gentle vapour).

People from across our Watton Group of Churches who attend (often all five churches are represented), find it a wonderful start to their day.

We begin at 8.00am and finish by 8.30am. Please come any Thursday, you would be very welcome.

CONCERT

On Saturday 17th April at 7pm Breckland Harmony in concert in the church.

Tickets £5 to include a buffet supper.

Further details next month.

LADIES GROUP.

Our meeting last month was on 16th February and fortunately the weather was kind to us and we had a very good attendance. Our speaker was Richard Wright from a small village near Loddon. His presentation was called 'From Pigs to Oil Lamps'. He gave us a very enjoyable talk on how his pig farm business hit hard times and through seeing something in a garden centre lead him to produce beautiful Botanical Oil Lamps. His talk was very interesting, informative and most entertaining.

The competition was something green and once again we had a lot of entries.

Our Cheese and Wine held on Friday 12th February was a well-attended and enjoyable evening. Lyndia and Chris made us very welcome in their home. It was nice to get everyone together. So a big 'thank you' Lyndia and Chris. These fundraisers are so important as speakers become more expensive every year and the committee like to have as varied a programme as possible.

Our meeting this month is on **March 16th** in the village hall. We are having a quiz and games night. This is a new thing for us to try, so I hope we will have a good attendance and enjoy a fun evening. The competition is something **PURPLE**.

Don't forget to make a note of our annual dinner. Hopefully this will be at The Windmill at Necton. **APRIL 16TH 7PM FOR 7.30PM**. More details at our March meeting.

THE LATE ROY PHILPOT

Donations in memory of Roy, given at his funeral, amounted to £140.00.

This sum has been given to the Village Hall to enable the purchase of new kitchen equipment, in accordance with his wishes.

BRAIN CELL REVIVAL.

This is a test for smart people, to try and figure out what the following words have in common.

1. BANANA
2. DRESSER
3. GRAMMAR
4. POTATO
5. REVIVE
6. UNEVEN
7. ASSESS.

And, no, it isn't that they all have at least two double letters.

Answers to the Oracle by March 22nd please.

STOP PRESS

We have just been informed that the Parish Council have been given authorisation by the Diocese of Norwich to lease the glebe land in Ovington for allotments.

This lease officially starts on April 6th this year, but no doubt the Parish Council will be in contact with the allotment applicants as soon as possible to regularise the agreements and rents.

With snow still lying on the ground it is unlikely that much soil will be turned yet awhile, but its good to know that the Council's efforts are eventually bearing fruit.

WALKING & HEALTH MATTERS.

- Walking can add minutes to your life. This enables you at 95 to spend an additional 5 months in a nursing home at £2,000 per month.
- My Grandpa started walking five miles a day when he was sixty. Now he's ninety-seven years old and we don't know where he is.
- I like long walks, especially when people who annoy me take them.
- The only reason that I would take up walking is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.
- I joined a health club last year, spent about 250 quid. Haven't lost a pound in weight. Apparently you have to go there.
- Every time I hear that dirty word "exercise". I wash my mouth out with chocolate.
- The advantage of exercising every day is so when you die, they'll say. "Well she looks good doesn't she"

DEADLINE DATE for the APRIL issue of the ORACLE is noon on MARCH 22nd

VILLAGE HALL for HIRE

Please phone Christine on 889920

Editors

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