

# THE OVINGTON ORACLE

OCTOBER 2010

www.ovington-village.org.uk

10/10

Hi Everyone.

Have you noticed that it's getting darker earlier? In fact with the recent lowering clouds and persistent rain, lights are going on just after tea. So much for our resolution to reduce our carbon footprint. We trust you have all been taking advantage of the magnificent crop of blackberries this year. Hope so, because there will be a demand for blackberry flavoured puddings, cakes and sauces at the forthcoming supper evenings, not forgetting similar flavourings at the Christmas bazaar. Good gracious is it that time already? We must add our congratulations, first to the allotment holders, who have formed a most effective team to run the increasingly popular gardening projects and secondly to the Village Hall Quiz team who have excelled yet again. Well-done Ovington.

## October Diary Dates

Oct 4 <sup>th</sup>	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Oct 6 <sup>th</sup>	Garden Club	7.45pm
Oct 11 <sup>th</sup>	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Oct 13 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council	7.30pm
Oct 18 <sup>th</sup>	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Oct 19 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Group	7.45pm
Oct 25 <sup>th</sup>	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Nov 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Supper Evening 7pm for 7.30pm</b>	
Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ovington Bazaar</b>	<b>12noon</b>

## We are the Champions!

At the National Association of Village Halls' recent county quiz final, Ovington emerged victorious after a hard fought contest against 12 teams from all over Norfolk. The whole quiz had a geographical theme and we weren't too hopeful of success. But, after quite a lot of inspired guesses, we managed to beat our rivals Toftwood by a margin of 13 points which was particularly pleasing as they beat us in the Breckland heats! The best part of it all was the prize: £100 for village hall funds and a huge trophy to display in the hall. (Thanks Christine, Julia, Sheila and Ed)

## September Lottery Winners

£10.00	No 48	Joan Perrett
£10.00	No 28	Mavis Scammell
£ 5.00	No 11	John Hardy

## Village Supper

Gird your loins in preparation for the annual Village Supper on **Saturday 6 November 7pm for 7.30pm** in the village hall. As usual, there will be a two-course feast for only £7.50 per person, which, these days, is a bargain. We have been promised a general knowledge quiz to exercise the brain cells and there will also be a raffle. All this is in aid of the village hall and tickets will be available after 10 October from Christine (885848). Put the date in your diary and book early, as space is limited - this is a popular event and has been known to sell out two weeks in advance!

## Pre Bazaar Meeting

This was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

The Bazaar will be held in the Village Hall on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December 12noon to 3pm.**

A collection around the village for items you wish to donate for the Bazaar will take place from **2pm on Tuesday November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010.**

There will be the usual stalls/competitions: Books, Raffle, Tombola, Hamper Competition, Guess the Weight of the Cake, Cakes, and Gifts Children's Lucky Dip.

Homemade Soups and refreshments.

## BBQ

The weather stayed fair for the last village BBQ of the season, hosted by kind permission of Harry and Barbara Hicks in their splendid marquee. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening with about 50 people attending and over £185 being raised for village hall funds. Many thanks to all concerned and in particular to Tim for doing most of the cooking!

## Spree Booklets

The new Spree booklet is now available, vouchers valid until 1 October 2011, and I still have a few left at £23 each. A proportion of this goes directly to village hall funds - last year it raised £50 - and every little helps. Ring Christine on 885848 if you would like to buy one again or if you are interested in further details. They make great Christmas presents.

## Macmillan Cancer Support

I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all who came along to the village hall on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September to support my Macmillan Biggest Ever Coffee Morning. There was a table laden with delicious homemade cakes, jams, pies and freshly picked apples. Thank you to all who spent most of Friday in the kitchen baking. Also thank you to those who donated raffle prizes.

I must, however, give the biggest thanks to all who came along and spent so generously, whilst enjoying a coffee or tea.

Also, a thank you to all those who were unable to attend but generously gave me a donation.

I shall be able to send £370 to Macmillan Cancer Support a really worthwhile cause. I must also say a few special thanks. Firstly to Lyndia who helped me organise the event and secondly to several of my friends who volunteered to give Lyndia and I a hand. So thank you so much Joyce, Christine Hardy, Dianne (Muff) and Rosemary. I couldn't have managed without you. I must also thank the village hall committee for letting me use the hall.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.  
Angela

## Allotment Corner

At the AGM on 12 September, the following were elected:

Chairman - Gordon North, Vice Chair - Billy Earl, Treasurer - Andy Malthouse, Secretary - Christine Reilly, Committee Members - Jill Burgess, Lyndia Lewis and Joyce Woods. At time of going to press, there are still one or two vacant plots available so if you feel the need to join our happy band and grow your own delicious food for next year, please contact one of the above. My courgettes are still producing, but I have to report that the French Beans are no longer with us. It was a sad day, mostly brought about by that vicious wind a couple of weeks ago which nearly lifted the entire village (and certainly did a lot of damage in Watton). Once the courgettes are over, I shall be in black until the spring but shall be adequately sustained by quantities of leek and parsnip soups! The archaeologist from Gressenhall is in the process of cataloguing some of our finds and hopes to visit the site soon to see what else we have dug up. There should be more news next month on this subject.

## Ovington Gardening Club

The September meeting was an illustrated talk by Barry Gayton on 'Border Plants' in which we were shown the plants in the border with their accompanying neighbours, either for contrast or for harmony.

The October meeting will be 'Garden Insects' by Robert Maidstone and this is a return visit as his previous talk on 'Squash it or not' was so well received last year. It will be held in the village hall at **7.45pm on Wednesday 6th October** and, as always, visitors or new members are welcome. For further details contact Ed on 01953 885848 or Carol on 01760 440719.

## Ladies Group

Our meeting on Tuesday 21 September was a talk by Mr Tom Thurston on beekeeping. He told us how he started beekeeping and brought along a hive and the protective clothing. The ladies found this most interesting; we learnt that hives are moved at night as the bees are docile then, how to capture a swarm, how a colony is made up, and something I didn't know, that the worker bees kill all the drones at the end of summer. He also explained in detail how honey is made. A most enjoyable evening was had by all the ladies.

## October

Our October meeting is the AGM. and will be held on the **19<sup>th</sup> October at 7.45pm** in the village hall, we have three committee members leaving this year as they have completed their 3 years. We shall need a Chairman and Secretary. Jill Malton has very kindly said she will be our Treasurer.

The committee only has about 4 or 5 meetings a year and are very informal. Everyone is always willing to help out with any of the jobs involved with being on the committee... so any volunteers????!!!! The AGM never takes very long so please do not be put off coming as there will be goodies to eat and games to play.

## Church News

### Thanks

Harry and Barbara thank you all for the help with cake stands and well-wishers for Elizabeth's wedding and Harry's licensing.

It will certainly be a weekend we won't forget! The village BBQ was a fitting rounding-off for the weekend. It was lovely to see friends from Ovington, Carbrooke, Saham, and Scoulton with us. Comments were - as usual - very complementary about the gastronomic excellence of the food. Thank you!

Thank you to all the people who cycled and visited and manned the church on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

Thank you to those who celebrated with us at the Harvest Festival Songs of Praise on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September. The auction of produce after the service raised £58.60p. A special thank you to Mr. Cazier who fronted the auction so well!

### Church Keys

We now have extra keys for the church. They are held by Harry and Barbara at Rockfield, Carbrooke Road, Connie and Chris at 3, Church Road, and Rod at 31 The Street, all in Ovington.

### October Church Services.

**Sunday October 10<sup>th</sup> 9.30am**

**Holy Communion** led by Rev. Rod Broughall.

### **Thursday Said Services**

Oct 7<sup>th</sup> 8am: Holy Communion (Rev. Jane)

Oct 14<sup>th</sup> 8am: Holy Communion (Rev. Geoff)

Oct 28<sup>th</sup> 8am: Holy Communion (Rev. Jane)

Come! These are the only services at Ovington this month, – even Revs need holidays!

### Christmas

It's never too early to think about Christmas (!) and the Ovington Carol Service is on Christmas Eve at 6:00pm. So get all your jobs done and begin the celebrations with Carols at Church! Hot refreshment provided. (More next month!)

### Bonfire

There's a bonfire 'do' at Ashill Rectory on November 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. There will be a raffle and food! (£6 per person). If you want to bring fireworks we'll let them off for you.

## New Bus Service

In recent times the bus service to Thetford has been minimal! Now however Thetford Coach Services have agreed for a 3 month trial to run their buses from Watton PO via Griston Caston Gt Hockham and Croxton to Thetford Bus Station. Routes and times may alter during holiday times.

Times to Thetford: 7.20, 8.40, 9.50, 11.50, 13.50, 15.25 and 17.00.

Return to Watton 7.55, 10.35, 12.35, 14.35, 16.20

Time tables available from Wayland House (old police station) reception.

Their web site is [www.coachservicesltd.com](http://www.coachservicesltd.com).

## PARISH COUNCIL

The most recent meeting of the Parish Council included the matter of renting the remaining land adjacent to the allotments. Only one serious application had been received and after a brief discussion it was agreed that the applicant be allowed to rent the land in accordance with the agreement as drawn up and approved by the Council and the landowners.

The hedges surrounding the aforesaid field had been allowed to become overgrown and the council agreed that they should in the first instance have them brought under control. An estimate of cost had been received and the council agreed that the work should proceed. The maintenance of the hedges thereafter becoming the responsibility of the tenant in future years. The Parish Council were said to be looking forward to transferring the running of the allotments to an association to be formed by the Allotment Holders at their forthcoming AGM. The matter of rental charges was put on hold until the allotment AGM, in order that the matter be thoroughly discussed by the new committee and their resolutions referred back to the Parish Council for ratification.

### Parish Clerk Vacancy:

The Parish Council has reported that there has been a limited response to their request for applications for the position of Clerk.

The job is extremely rewarding and does come with financial remuneration. Apply to John Goode on 01953 889342 or Rod Rumsby on 01953 882246.

### TRAFFIC CENSUS.

Jeremy, the organiser of this marathon, wishes to thank all those who spent many hours crouched behind bushes, or under hedges, counting the surprising number and variety of vehicles passing through the Village on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Despite claims that the overall traffic seemed lighter than usual, a total of 738 vehicle movements were recorded over the twelve-hour survey period.

Jeremy hopes to extend the area of survey in future operations to include Saham Road and Dereham Road; details of dates and locations will be notified later. Should you wish to give up a short period of the day assisting with this planned survey, then we are pretty sure Jeremy (on 883953) would love to hear from you. (As one who took part in the previous survey I must say it was not at all arduous, indeed it was most interesting, educational almost and the two-hour stints went past quickly).

### WATER LEAKS

No doubt you have all been alarmed at the continued loss of water from an underground leak on The Street. This has been reported by a representative from the Parish Council and members of the public living nearby. Anglian Water have attended the scene, but, as yet nothing has been done.

The answer would seem to be to inundate Anglian Water with continued reports of this problem and hope that the constant drip, drip, (pun intended) of telephone complaints, will wear them down and we shall all see a nice dry road again. Please, if you are affected or incensed by the waste of water; ring the free number of Anglian Water on 0800145145. You know, people power, can still influence these remote, and apparently unconcerned, organisations. Go on, you know it makes sense.

#### August Rainfall

August 2010	149.25mm	or 5.07ins
August 2009	26.00mm	or 1.04ins
August 2000	31.50mm	or 1.26ins

Thank you Ted

### YOUR BITS

We have appealed in the past for your submissions to this worldwide-distributed newsletter. Thankfully, most of the Village organisations have taken this on board and

regularly submit reports of their activities and advertise their forthcoming events. This is great, but we still welcome individual submissions, be it a joke, story, historical anecdote, or anything of interest to our readers. Don't be shy; your name will not be published if you wish to remain incognito.

We are certain there are dozens of non-libellous tales just aching to be told out there somewhere. You can use word of mouth, written word, e-mails, any medium is acceptable

### MARRIED LIFE.

Wife: "What are you doing?"

Husband: "Nothing"

Wife: "Nothing? You've been reading our marriage certificate for an hour"

Husband: "I was looking for the expiry date"

Wife: "Do you want dinner?"

Husband: Please! What are my choices?"

Wife: "Yes or No"

A wife asked her husband: "What do you like most in me, my pretty face or my sexy body?" He looked at her from head to toe and replied: "I like your sense of humour!"

GIRLS, its your turn next month, can't let the blokes make all the running, so any (legal) submitted funnies getting back at the men in your lives will be published. Honest.

### Village Hall Bookings

**Please ring Christine Hardy on 889920  
To book your party or meeting.**

### Deadline Date

**For the November 'Oracle' is  
12noon on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010 or  
earlier if possible.**

### Editors

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