

THE OVINGTON ORACLE

March 2011

www.ovington-village.org.uk

3/11

Hi everyone,

Following our long cold hard winter we seem to have the first signs of spring appearing around the village. The snow has been superseded by equally brilliant, white carpets of snowdrops by the village hall and around the Church. They are a harbinger of things to come as the daffodils are pushing up their green shoots along the roadsides. We note that the dark blue crocuses set last year are at last bursting through as well. Before you know it we shall be complaining about the wasps invading our picnics.

We are hoping for a sunny day when the litter pick takes place next month, then the village will look not only colourful but clean and tidy too.

Right, let's have a look at what's going on in the next week or so.

March Diary

Mar 2 nd	Garden Club	7.45pm
Mar 5 th	Litter Pick	10.00am
Mar 7 th	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Mar 9 th	Parish Council	7.30pm
Mar 12 th	Tea/Cake	2.30pm
Mar 14 th	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Mar 15 th	Ladies group	7.45pm
Mar 21 st	Bowls Club	1.45pm
Mar 28 th	Bowls Club	1.45pm

Litterpick

The annual 'Village Clean Up' will take place on **Saturday March 5th** starting from the Village Sign at **10am**. Safety equipment, pickers, bags etc will be provided.

You are quite welcome to wear your own yellow safety jackets and your own gloves. Washing facilities will be available in the village hall where light refreshments will be served after the clean up has been completed.

Quiz

Annual Quiz and supper will take place on **Friday 6th May**. To book your team, please ring Christine 885848 as soon as possible.

February Lottery Winners

£10.00. No.45 Rosemary McQuoid
£ 5.00 No. 6 Desmond McQuoid

Fete

Unfortunately, the date has had to be changed, as there is a wedding planned at Ovington Church on that day.

It will now take place on **June 25th**.

The meeting to sort out arrangements for the fete will take place on **April 12th at 7.45pm** in the village hall, and is open to everyone.

If you would like to help at the fete or have any ideas of other things we could do, please come along or let us know beforehand.

Village Hall AGM

The Annual General meeting of the Village hall was held last Tuesday 22nd. Unfortunately there were no members of the public present.

The committee elected were

Chairperson – Everyone

Vice Chair – Christine Reilly

Secretary - Marie Ana Cave

Treasurer – Grace Rumsby

Booking Clerk – Christine Hardy

Others: Pat Powell, Lynn Stillwell, Ed Reilly, Rod Rumsby, Gordon North and Jon Wheeler.

Bottle Bank

Don't forget to put your clean empty GLASS bottles in the bottle bank, and the tops in your green wheelie bin.

Clothes Bank – clean good unwanted clothes in bin bags (not loose) One pair of shoes in each separate bag.

Thank you for keeping the site clean and tidy

January Rainfall

January 2011	83.0mm	or 3.32ins
January 2010	71.0mm	or 2.84ins
January 2001	51.5mm	or 2.06ins

Thank you Ted

Ladies Group

Our February meeting saw us “working out” with Dianne Cuthbert. Dianne kept us all moving every muscle in our bodies, either sitting down or standing, including some muscles we didn’t know we had (until the next day that is, ouch!). Dianne is a great keep fit teacher who also kept us amused with a few comical anecdotes and we had a thoroughly good evening. She asked if her fee could be donated to the Help the Heroes fund, which we were happy to do on her behalf.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank Joyce and Jeremy for hosting the Cheese and Wine evening in February. Everyone had a most enjoyable time and a generous profit was made to help pay for our speakers throughout the year. Thank you both very much.

At our next meeting on **March 15th at 7.45pm**, our very own John Hardy will be coming along to give a talk on Botswana. Knowing John as we do, I am sure this will be a very interesting evening. The competition will be “a favourite tea plate”.

Looking ahead to our Annual Ladies Dinner at The Windmill in Necton on **April 8th** - if you still haven’t seen the menu and placed an order, please ring Maureen on 882772. Arrangements for transport will be discussed at the March meeting.

Finally, a reminder to all ladies in the village. If you would like to come along to any of the meetings at any time we will be happy to see you. You do not have to join the Ladies Group if you do not want to commit yourself – just come along as a guest.

Help the Heroes Old mobile phones can be donated to Help The Heroes – To receive your envelope either ring Miss Barrett on 01603 8824500 or visit www.phonesforheroes.com

Celebrations

Come and celebrate with us on the occasion of our Golden Wedding, join us for ‘Tea and Cake’ in the village hall on **March 12th**. Pop in any time between **2.30pm and 4.30pm**. No presents, but if you so wish there will be a box for donations to be split between two charities The Diabetes Centre and Nelsons Journey. See you there. Rod and Grace

Oil

Sometime ago I was asked to set up a syndicate for Ovington householders who use Oil for heating purposes, knowing if we all worked together it would work out cheaper and be a bit greener on the environment front, also a donation would be given to the village according to how much we had purchased.

The deliveries would be February, May, August and November.

For some reason it does not seem to be working, as quite recently I saw 7 different oil lorries delivering in Ovington in one day. Talking to some of the other villages nearby it is working well and they have received quite a sizeable donation for the village. What went wrong?

Ovington Gardening Club

The February meeting was hosted by one of our members, Tom Thurston, who gave a presentation on ‘Bees and Bee-keeping’. We each came away with a new fact on bee keeping and were kept entertained by a knowledgeable professional.

The March meeting is on **Wednesday 2nd at 7.45pm** in the village hall when we shall be hearing about ‘Growing by the Moon’ by Jan Hunt.

For further details, please contact Ed on 01953 885848 or Carol on 01760 440719

Womens’ World Day of Prayer

Friday March 4th 2.30pm

Everyone is invited (that’s men as well) to attend this service in Watton Methodist Church. Speaker: The Rev’d Angela Nicoll -Theme: How Many Loaves Have You?

Women from around the world will celebrate the Women’s World Day of Prayer. The service has been written by the women of Chile, it is an appropriate theme for bread is eaten at every meal and is very much part of everyday life. The women of Chile offer what it means to them as they share this service with us.

Although organised and led by women, this is essentially a worldwide day of prayer for everybody as we demonstrate our solidarity with our sisters and brothers in other countries and all are welcome to attend. At our service we shall sing hymns, learn about life in Chile from the Readings and afterwards enjoy refreshments and chat together. Please join us!

St John, the Evangelist Church, Ovington

Rector: Revd Jane Atkins Tele: 01760 441191

email: revd.jane@virgin.net

We are pleased to discuss weddings, baptisms or any other needs with which you think the church could help; please contact our Rector. The Rector's day off is Monday, but messages can be left on the answering machine and, if the situation is extremely urgent, she will get back to you as soon as the message is picked up.

Services in March

6th March 10.30am Benefice Holy Communion
at Ashill.

All churches in the benefice worshipping together in the same place

13th March 9.30am Holy Communion here

Every Friday at 9.00am Holy Communion (Note the change of day and time)

using traditional language and incense. This is a short service, only 30 mins, with no hymns.

3rd April Mothering Sunday Service at 12.00 noon, followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting to hear about last year's achievements and make decisions about this next year. You can attend the service or the meeting. Why not come to both and enjoy a Mothering Sunday service and contribute to the life of your church?

Donations

We are extremely grateful to receive contributions in church at services or in our donations box, which is left in the church and emptied every day. If you prefer to contribute to the church by monthly standing order, please contact the Rector. Thank you if you contribute in any way, the church will only survive if people support it financially.

Organist

We have procured the services of an excellent organist to play at our Sunday services of Holy Communion. Sandy Cromie is a professional musician who has recently agreed to work with Saham Toney Church and will help us for our monthly services when she can.

Church Outing

Join Revd Jane Atkins for the Nuremberg Christmas Markets Break. From **28th Nov - 2nd Dec 2011** from £250 per person. Single room supplement £60pp will apply. Staying at the Neue Krone hotel

Deposits are £50 per person. Please make cheques payable to Barbara Harrold. Cheques may be given to Barbara or Revd Jane. Places are limited.

Open Church

Thank you to Harriet Woods, who has agreed to open and close the church on a daily basis.

Rev Jane Atkins

We have received a thank you note for the £300 donated by our PCC to St Francis Hospital in Katete in Zambia just before Christmas. This donation was a wonderful answer to prayer; St Francis Hospital had been given some equipment from a hospital in this country but there was no money available to transport it to the airport, so part of our donation provided this transport. A doctor who works in this hospital attended his brother's wedding in Ovington last year and it is good to know that every penny from our donation will be spent wisely in the prevention of the spread of malaria.

We are pleased that our friends in neighbouring parishes are coming over to St John's and reading a chapter or two from the Authorised Version of the Bible. The church is open daily and the reading is to celebrate the 400th anniversary of this special book. Do come up to the church and help us to complete the task of reading the whole bible. Just mark on the sheet (beside the Bible on the Lectern) where you read up to with your name and the date. At the time of going to press we are currently reading Judges.

A total of £54.24 has been paid to the Leprosy Mission. If anybody would like a Leprosy Box in Ovington please contact Ann Johnson. Odd pennies make pounds and pounds help this charity to combat this debilitating disease. The Leprosy Mission is committed to its vision of a world without leprosy, and an important aspect in achieving this is its engagement in leprosy research. On average it costs the Leprosy Mission £20 to cure someone of leprosy so the people of Ovington have cured nearly three people since the last amount was paid to this charity.

At our recent PCC Meeting Revd Jane thanked Harry and Barbara for all they have done in Ovington Church in their roles of Lay Reader, Organist, Fabric Officer and Churchwarden. They will be sorely missed but we wish them God's blessings in their new home by the sea. However it is good to see more parishioners helping out and a big thank you to Sandie for playing the organ at our February service.

Ann (Church Secretary)

U3A

New group U3A being set up in Dereham
Further details visit www.u3a.org.uk or ring 01362 698990

Parish Council Elections

The last four years have flown by and it will soon be time for the District and Parish Council elections. (May 5th actually, ed.) The present PC chairman has asked us to not only publicise this event, but to try and encourage Ovington people to stand for election. No doubt at some time you have said to yourself "What is the Council going to do about---This problem?----- That eyesore ?" Well you could be in a position to "Do something about it" as a councillor. Do you think village services could do with a shake up? Do you think you could sort things that appear to be going pear shaped? Got some good ideas on how your community should be guided?

Then put yourself up for election, if you can convince the people of Ovington that your policies are going to improve their lot, then you are in with a chance. It's an opportunity not to be missed.

Of course there is always the thought that if there are not enough volunteers to form an Ovington Council, Watton Town Council, and that's a thought to ponder over, could possibly control us.

The next Parish Council meeting is in the village hall on **March 9th at 7.30pm**, come along, make yourselves known, and put your name forward.

Breckland Council are hosting an event entitled 'Be a Councillor' at Dereham on **Wednesday March 2nd at 6pm** with refreshments for 6.30pm start.

For further details ring 01362 656870 or email elections@breckland.gov.uk

Daft bits.

On the subject of marriage: -

Girl. When we get married, I want to share all your worries, troubles and lighten your burden.

Boy. It's very kind of you darling, but I don't have any worries or troubles.

Girl. Well, that's because we aren't married yet!

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"

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"

Starters and Puds evening

On Saturday the 19th of February, fifty four starving bodies sat down to an extensive menu of glorious food in the Village Hall.

There was so much choice and quantity that there was just no room for a main course, so starters and puds sufficed to satisfy everybody. Starters ranged from hot home made soups to delicate but sumptuous pate' pickies.

The puds, oh those puds, (all dieticians were banned that night,) there are not enough superlatives in the dictionary to describe the variety, flavours and scoff-a-bility of those deserts.

A raffle drew in the shekels, a quiz with a Beatles theme had most of the older generation bopping in the aisles, and to top it all Bronwyn scared the living daylight out of everyone with some ghost stories----just before they all ventured out into a dark and stormy night. The goodly sum raised gave tribute to those boys and girls who worked so hard to provide, once again, a good old Ovington Food Festival.

Dog Walking and Fouling.

Just a reminder to the dog walkers who wish to take their dogs on the land adjacent to and also onto the allotments. **This is private land** and the same rules apply here as on public roads. Dogs must be kept on a lead and any dog faeces **MUST** be cleared up. A dog waste bin is by the entrance to the allotments so there is no excuse for not clearing away any leavings. Thank you. Ovington Parish Council.

Village Hall Bookings

Please ring Christine Hardy on 889920

To book your group meetings or parties.

Deadline Date

For items for the April 'Oracle' is 12noon on 18th March 2011 or earlier if possible.

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