

The Ovington Oracle

April, 2012

Welcome:

Linda & Tim

It is lovely to see that spring has sprung and the kerbside daffodils planted several years ago continue to bring pleasure to all. The impact of the annual litter pick can also be seen with hedgerows free of litter. Makes us proud to live in Ovington.

Will we soon have the title of most eco-village in Breckland? More residents are embracing the power of the sun and wind to make their own electricity. Perhaps we could be independent of the main grid ... oh dear I forgot some days it rains and the wind don't blow so better stay on the grid for the time being.

Village arrangements for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee continue to develop so do look out for further details on how to be involved in this and upcoming Oracles

We extend a warm welcome to Colin and Mandy Rhodes who recently moved to The Street. We looking forward to meeting you at some of the village events.

We are pleased to have received even more contributions than usual this month, so this Oracle has extra pages.

Diary Dates:

All at Village Hall unless otherwise indicated

Mondays @ 10:30	Coffee morning, until 11:30am
Mondays @ 1:45 (except 9 April)	Bowls
Tuesdays @ 5:15	Karate
30 <u>March</u> @ 2:00pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
4 April @ 7:45pm	Gardening Club
8 April @ 9:30pm	Easter Sunday – Holy Communion (Church)
17 April @ 7:45pm	Ladies Group
20 April @ 7:45pm	Village hall fête organising meeting
27 April, evening	Ladies annual dinner at Broome Hall
28 April @ 7:30pm	Quiz night

To book the village hall contact Christine Hardy 889920

Septic tanks

Timothy Birt

As part of the EU 'Water Framework Directive', which aims to monitor water quality there was a requirement to register all small domestic sewage discharges from septic tanks. However, many people didn't know and failed to register before the deadline. There is currently a joint review between The Environment Agency and Government on how to proceed.

More information at

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/118753.aspx



Ladies Group:

By: Maureen Simmons

Minette from Candii Clouds came along to our March meeting to give a demonstration on cake decorating. The well attended meeting saw Minette decorate cakes with an Easter theme including rabbits, chicks, ducklings and flowers. The next cake stall at the fête may see some unusual works of art!

Names and menu choices are still being taken for the ladies' annual dinner at Broome Hall on 27th April. If you still haven't put your name down and wish to come along, please telephone Maureen on 882772. Travel arrangements will be confirmed at the next meeting. This will be on Tuesday, 17th April at 7:45pm in the Village Hall. The speaker for the evening will be Christine Herbet, a herbalist and allergy therapist, and the competition will be something beginning with the letter D.

We would also like to send love and all good wishes to Betty, Jean, Rose and Sylvie who have all spent some time in hospital this year.

Finally, a reminder that our meetings are open to all ladies in the village. You do not have to be a member, you can come along as a guest. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Litter Pick:

by: Rod Rumbsy

Saturday 17th March saw a gathering of stalwarts determined to tidy up the village by collecting the quantities of litter that had for some time adorned our roadside verges and hedgerows.



The weather turned out to be less accommodating than was hoped but undeterred the pickers spread themselves across the village, down ditches, through hedges, at all times competing with heavy traffic, to gather a vast quantity of material that other, less considerate, folk had no further use for. Quite a lot of the gatherings could be re-cycled, a great help in keeping the planet green.

Following a quick clean up the volunteers repaired to the *Village Hall* where hot drinks and dishes of sumptuous food revived their cold, wet and tired bodies.

The Parish Council thanks all the volunteers for their determined efforts and hope that the example set will deter people from dumping their rubbish in Ovington.

Broken Glass – supplementary note

Please will people not deposit broken glass around the bottle bank. This represents a serious hazard to people, dogs, and possibly vehicles tyres. If you have any sheet glass, please take it to one of the recycling centres. Do not break it up to put it in the bank - which is for bottles!



Gardening Club:

By: Ed Reilly

The March meeting introduced us to Shelagh Ashe who gave the talk on "Mind the Gap - Keeping Borders full of Interest". She is a specialist garden designer and we 'visited' many great gardens during the evening, seeing the detail of the design of parts of the borders. The points being made were that the plants varied but the jobs that were done were similar in the various gardens. Many plants were proposed for different problems and the depth of knowledge shown was incredible. All in all, this was a design master-class by an excellent presenter. The April meeting will be on Wednesday, 4th at 7:45pm in the village hall when Joan Bridge will be talking on "Vegetable Growing". For further details contact Ed on 01953 885848 or Carol on 01760 440719.

Comment / Letters:

Would the young lad with the bike and golf club on the children's play area by Crown Crescent like to explain the excitement he obviously experienced by pulling the heads off all the daffodils in that area?

The people who witnessed this excess of zeal, and the Parish Councillors who planted the daffodils, are at a loss to know how such destructive behaviour can give anybody a sense of achievement.

We would dearly like to discover the reasoning behind your actions and to that end would invite you to any of our Parish Council meetings, where you will be given ample opportunity to enlighten us on the thrills of decapitating flowers.

Rod Rumbsy (Parish Council Chairman)

Village Hall:

By: Christine Reilly

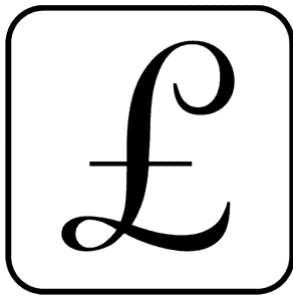
Thank you to the very select band of Ovington residents who attended the AGM in the village hall at the end of February. It's good to know that some people beyond the committee take an interest. Following a review of the year's activities and finances, all of which had been very successful, a new committee was elected as follows:

Chairman	Christine Reilly
Vice Chairman	Pat Powell
Secretary	Marie-Ana Cave
Treasurer	Alan Powell
Booking Clerk	Christine Hardy
Committee Members	Gordon North, Lyn Stillwell, Ed Reilly, Jon Wheeler.

We are working on a programme of events for this year, starting with the quiz on 28 April. However, we welcome suggestions and ideas from all quarters and would particularly like to see as many people as possible at our 'Pre-Fête Meeting' on Friday 20 April at 7:45pm in the Village Hall. If you can offer any help on the day of the fête (9 June) or ideas for new attractions, stalls or sideshows please come along (or if you can't make it that night, contact a member of the committee beforehand). Traditionally, all proceeds from the fête are split equally between the church and the Village Hall, our only two amenities, so let's all pull together and make it a real village effort!

Village Lottery:

by: Alan Powell



Every quarter there are usually more prizes, as funds allow, culminating in "the big one" at the Christmas Bazaar, so for March there are four winners of the village lottery:

1st (£10)	(No.44) Nic Sproston
2nd (£5)	(No.36) Roger Kennaugh
3rd (£5)	(No.11) Rosemary Angell
4th (£5)	(No.16) Maureen Rands

Congratulations and good luck for April

The Annual Ovington Quiz:

By: Christine Reilly

Book your team in as soon as possible for the Annual Ovington Quiz which will be held this year on Saturday, 28 April at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. Teams of 4 are required to take part in an evening of friendly rivalry, sustained by a salad-based buffet supper (choice of cold meats, pies or vegetarian options).

Tickets cost £7 each (£28 per team) and are available in advance only as space is limited. All proceeds, including the raffle, go to *Village Hall* funds. Call Christine on 01953 885848 to reserve tickets.

Parish Council:

by: Rod Rumbsy (Chairman)

A meeting with representatives from the *Allotment Association* preceded the Parish Council meeting, where matters concerning the agreement between the two parties were discussed.

The following are a brief, condensed and unconfirmed report on the Parish Council meeting held on March 6th 2012.

Recreation contribution from Breckland was still under consideration, and finance cuts have reduced the likelihood of getting a vehicle activated speed sign in the near future.

Planning applications for solar panel installations were discussed and agreed, with certain reservations concerning pre-empting construction prior to planning consent.

The allotment agreement was also discussed at length and it was noted that the *Allotment Association* would meet with the aim of agreeing and signing the necessary documents within a month. The council agreed to be responsible for the maintenance of surrounding hedges, fences and grassed areas, also to attend to the continued dog-fouling problem.

The Village Hall Committee were thanked for their offer of the hall and its facilities for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.

Highways Ranger Department, the Council were unimpressed by the work supposedly carried out recently.

Queen's Jubilee Celebrations, the arrangements and planning for this event are well under way, applications for funding are being prepared.

A further meeting will be arranged to finalise some of the details.

The village sign is ready to be re-erected and work will commence shortly.

Village litter pick – final arrangements were discussed (see page 4 for more details).

Date of next meeting will be on 2nd May at 7:30pm, the PC meeting will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting when all members of the parish are encouraged to attend and bring forward any matters they feel need addressing by the Council.

Church:

by: Ann Johnson

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) takes place on Friday 30th March at 2:00pm in Ovington Village Hall (Committee Room). Please do come along and support this meeting, this is your opportunity to put ideas forward.

Please join us and help with Church cleaning on Monday 2nd April at 2:00pm.

Easter Sunday is 8th April.

Revd Tim Weston has kindly offered to return to St John's to take our service on this very special day. Do come and support him with Holy Communion at 9:30am.

The 9:00 Said Communion Services on Thursdays are postponed until mid June.

Jubilee Celebration

Timothy Birt

Thanks to John Hardy for his continued efforts in organising this significant event.

John is still struggling to identifying all the children who live in the village so that they may receive their free jubilee celebration mug; please call (889920) or send a note via any parish councillor so we can make sure no one is missed.

The mugs, which are hand made by a local potter specifically for our Jubilee event, have received critical acclaim. Some people have already asked if they might buy one so a few extra mugs have ordered. The quality can be seen from this unglazed sample:



It is never too soon to put a thinking cap on to dream up an idea for your scarecrow, part of our pre-jubilee fun. Prizes available! Also the pot / garden displays need starting soon!

Just for information the Parish Council is funding the Jubilee event from charitable funds and grants from Breckland District Council and hopefully, from Norfolk County Council. No precept money is being used.

Children's Corner

Seasonal jokes

Q: What's the best day for monkey business?

A: The first of Ape-ril! ?

Q: Can February march?

A: No, but April may!

Q: What season is it when you are on a trampoline?

A: Spring-time!

Crossword, you might need a dictionary |

1	2	3	4
2			
3			
4			

Across 1 Strong money box

2 Prophetic sign

3 Good action

4 Colony insects

Down 1 Carbonated water

2 Prayer "so be it"

3 Three in the yard

4 Finishes

Ovington Fuel Trust:

By: Rod Rumsby

The trustees would like to dispel rumours that are currently circulating around the Village, intimating that they are in the process of selling off all the properties in their ownership.

These rumours have caused a great deal of concern to the tenants of the cottages as to whether they might lose their homes.

The trustees wish to reassure the tenants and any villager who might have their own concerns that they are selling only one unoccupied cottage.

Deadline for next issue: 19th April

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Please send contributions to either above or email:

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A large print version is available for download at the web-site.