

# The Ovington Oracle

October, 2012

Welcome to this bumper edition, for those of you missing the excitement of the Olympics and the seemingly endless athletic feats Ann kindly agreed to share her experiences as a Gamesmaker in the Olympics. National pride remains high but let's not forget Ovington pride and we hope that there will be a turn out to rival the Athletes' parade for the official rededication of the Ovington village sign.

## **Diary Dates:**

All at Village Hall unless otherwise indicated

Mondays @ 10:30am	Coffee morning, until 11:30am
Mondays @ 1:45pm	Bowls
Mondays @ 6:00pm	Junior Choir
2nd Oct @ 7:00pm	Public meeting on Breckland Service cuts/savings (Queens Hall, Watton)
3rd Oct @ 11:00am	Craft Sessions, until 4:00pm latest
3rd Oct @ 7:45pm	Gardening club
7th Oct @ 10:00am	Rededication of Village Sign (Village)
7th Oct @ 10:30am	Harvest Festival (Church)
16th October	Church Road closed, daytime
16th Oct @ 7:45pm	Ladies Group AGM
27th Oct @ 7:00pm	Ladies Group Halloween Supper (Pages Lane, Saham Toney)
3rd November	Annual Village Hall Supper

To book the village hall contact Christine Hardy 889920

More at: [www.ovington-village.org.uk](http://www.ovington-village.org.uk)

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## **Church**

Ann Johnson

Thank you to all who manned the church to welcome the cyclists taking part in the Norfolk Churches Bicycle Ride. A special thank you to Chris Lewis who got on his bike and visited 15 churches and to Rod who was sponsored while manning the church.

Thank you also to the dedicated team who quietly cut the grass in the churchyard throughout the summer to make it look so neat and tidy.

It was good to welcome 6 dogs and one tortoise to the Pet Service / Open Air Service. The dogs were all very good again and were rewarded with little treats. The tortoise was very entertaining as he kept strolling off to explore the churchyard and even tried to join the Band on one occasion! We were blest with such a beautiful day for this service and it was so good to be accompanied by Watton Silver Band.

Church cleaning will take place on Tuesday 4th October at 2:00pm.

Our Harvest Festival will be a Benefice Service on Sunday, 7th October, at 10:30am and this will be followed by harvest cake, harvest drink and the traditional auction. Do come and enjoy the Ovington hospitality. The village sign will be re-dedicated at 10:00am prior to this service. We would be very grateful for your gifts of fruit, vegetables etc and they can be placed in the church any time during the day.

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## ***Congratulations!***

Mel Bate

Congratulations to Tom Bate as he begins his adult life training to become a doctor at Durham University.

Good luck for the future ,with love from your proud family.

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## ***Ladies Group***

Maureen Simmons



Liz Cooper, House Manager at Oxburgh Hall, came along to our September meeting. She provided a very interesting evening with a slide show and brief history of the Hall near Swaffham, which is now owned by the National Trust. All members enjoyed the evening and I know there will be many of us making a return visit to the Hall to look at various things with new eyes.

The AGM will be held on 16th October at 7:45pm, when we will be seeking two new committee members. Anyone interested can contact Maureen on 882772, or just let us know on the evening. "Prize" bingo will follow the formal part of the meeting.

Our next social evening will be a Halloween Supper on Saturday, 27th October, at the home of Maureen and John – Moatside, Pages Lane, Saham Toney from 7:00 pm. If you think you will have a problem getting there, please contact a committee member, who will arrange a lift. The cost per person will be £8 to include dinner, dessert and your first drink.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

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## ***Road Closure***

Norfolk County Council

Temporary Traffic Order affecting the C134 (Church Road) from junction with A1075 Dereham Road for 660m southwards in the PARISH OF OVINGTON because of tree trimming around overhead power lines.

The road will be temporarily closed (except for access) between 08:30 – 16:00 on 16th October 2012 for the duration

of the works, expected to be about 7.5 hours within the period.

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## ***Village Hall***

Christine Reilly

### **Annual Village Hall Supper in Ovington**

Anyone interested in tickets for the Annual Supper at Ovington Village Hall on Saturday 3rd November should ring Christine on 885848 to reserve places by the 27 October as space is limited. As always, there will be a choice of casseroles for the main course followed by desserts and tea/coffee - all for only £8 per person. Proceeds from the evening, including a raffle, will go to village hall funds.

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## ***Bowls Club***

Rod Rumsby

The bowls club is currently looking for some new members as anno domini and ill health is depriving us of some long standing bowlers. The remaining members are looking to impress any newcomer with their lack of skills, in fact they are hoping to get some people who have no experience of carpet bowls to make them look good.

Seriously though if you have a couple of hours to spare on a Monday afternoon (tea and cake thrown in) you would be more than welcome to join what is probably the happiest bunch of bowlers anywhere. Give it a try, the first session is completely free, and very reasonable thereafter, you are assured of a warm welcome and lots of advice?? from some of the experts. No obligation, just give it a try.

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## ***Best wishes to Gordon ...***

We wish a speedy recovery to Gordon who is in hospital.

The Parish Council held a meeting on 6th September where we were pleased to see three members of the public, our District Councillor and our local Community Police representative.

The first task was to appoint or co-opt a new councillor, we had two applicants and after they had given their reasons for wishing to be part of the Council, the existing councillors had a brief discussion and after a secret ballot the council were able to welcome Karen Weir as a Parish Councillor.

The meeting then adjourned to allow PCSO Tonya Winsley (contact details pg.14) to give an update on crime statistics for Ovington, although there have been reported incidences there had been no crime committed since June. She reminded the Council that there would be a SNAP meeting at 7:00pm in the Fire Station on Tuesday 11th Sept. She is also hoping to attend a coffee morning in October and December, these as you are aware are held every Monday Morning in the Village Hall.

There were no comments or questions from the public but Cllr Rogers reported that car parking charges are still out for consultation, a consultation meeting will take place in the Watton Queens Hall on Tuesday 2nd October at 7:00pm where you will be able to voice your opinions on where you think Breckland should make cuts to maintain the services they provide, car parking charges are one of the agenda items.

The meeting re-opened.

Highways are to be asked again to clear the local footpaths.

Under correspondence, a local resident asked for the visibility to be improved at the junction of Church Road and The Street / Carbrooke Road. It was agreed to try again for a footpath along the Dereham Road to Watton, it was suggested that the Community Construction Fund might be of assistance, also to look into the possibility of other funding sources.

*[Update: Highways have rejected the proposal as the verge is too narrow]*

The website is running well, thanks to the web master Cllr Jeremy Woods.

Planning application for a proposed Travellers site at Otterwood Kennels, the council raised several points concerning the number of sites, disposal of waste, access, and proposed removal of mature oak trees.

Agreement was reached over payment of accounts

The Clerk stated that the annual audit had been carried out with no issues raised. A copy of the audit and parish accounts will be displayed on the notice board.

The next meeting will be held on November 22nd at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall, all welcome, time is always given for the public to have a say.

Cllr Karen Weir attended the SNAP meeting and raised the question of excessive speed through the village, the police have agreed to make this one of their priorities and they have decided that we can do a 'walk through' the village to work out a potential place to perhaps do a 'speed aware' check of our own, or review a place for them to do one of their own, and also try to get a member of Breckland council to accompany us to see if they have any bright ideas on how this might be achieved. A suggestion was made that a reduction of the speed restriction to 20mph might help. Watch this space.

Don't forget, the contact details of all councillors are on the web site, and they are available to answer your queries, or advise you where to obtain specific information.



## ***My Olympic Dream***

Ann Johnson |

I have just returned from a very special 17 days in my life – a Gamesmaker at the Olympic Games. Ever since I was a young girl I wanted to attend an Olympic Games. When the Games were awarded to the City of London I thought this is my chance to become a volunteer. I was one of the successful 70,000 out of an initial 225,000 who applied. I was invited to be a member of the Event Services Team which meant I could be working anywhere out in the open on the Olympic Park. I completed my training, collected my red and purple uniform and was ready for my first shift from 1:00pm – 11:00pm on the afternoon of the Opening Ceremony.

Each shift I was assigned a colour that determined where and what I would be doing that day. On my first shift I was assigned to Greenway Gate, the entrance for celebrities, VIP's and officials. We worked with the military, who did a sterling job on the security front, the visitors were directed to us and we welcomed them, scanned their tickets for authenticity, directed them to their venue and wish them a wonderful evening.

My next shift was an early one on the Sunday morning. This meant getting up at 4:30 and working from 6:00am until 3:30pm and I found this the most difficult one of any – not being an early morning person! I was on Stratford Gate where 75% of the public arrive and it was so lovely to feel their excitement, especially from the children, as they eagerly looked forward to the events they were attending. Other days I was hostessing in the beautiful garden areas, answering people's queries, taking family photos outside the stadium, helping people egress from venue areas, looking out for lost children and other family members, diffusing problems before they escalated, and saying goodnight and wishing people a



safe journey home.

I was amazed at the scale and attractiveness of the Olympic park. The park covered an area of 2.5 sq kilometres (the size of 350 football pitches). Visitors could enjoy the beautiful walkways along the river and waterways adorned with the amazing colour of various wild flowers, representing the different continents. The Royal Jubilee Barge, the Gloriana, was moored in one of the waterways. There was also the largest McDonald's in the world, a bandstand, picnic area, live music, street performers, mascot appearances, photo opportunities and interactive experiences from the sponsors. The whole park was just one massive area of fun and excitement.

One of the main objectives of the Olympics was to inspire young people all over the world to take up sport. The 2012 Gardens showed examples of millions of children all over the world who have already been helped.

On my rest days David and I were fortunate to have tickets for the athletics session in the stadium. Inside this stadium the atmosphere was electric. Can you imagine David doing the Mexican Wave – well he did more than once! We saw Usain Bolt receive his first gold medal in his victory ceremony and we also saw him run in the semi-finals for the 200 metres. What was so special was that all 80,000 people in the stadium not only roared for Team GB but gave tremendous support and encouragement to each athlete in every discipline.

Two more Olympic Ideals are diversity and inclusiveness: the Gamesmakers were from all walks of life, all creeds and all races from this country and other countries. It was fun working with a different team each day and I was humbled to meet such inspiring people.



## ***My Olympic Dream, continued***

My adventures continued after the Olympics when I was lucky enough to take a friend to the Paralympics. We were privileged not only to see Eleanor Symonds get gold but we also saw 11 world records and 17 Paralympic records broken. What a night!

Lord Coe, said "In this country we will never think of sport the same way and we will never think of disability the same way – the Paralympians have lifted the cloud of limitation".

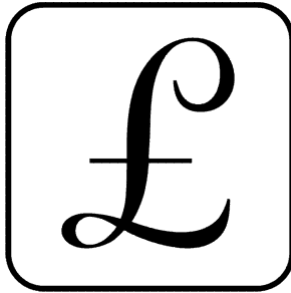
Finally to round off my unique experience I got tickets in the Gamesmaker ballot to see the Athlete's parade: what a day to remember this turned out to be. We were entertained by the 'Gamesmakers' Choir (I don't think they are as yet on the same scale as the Military Wives' Choir but they are doing well and gaining recognition). The Athlete's Parade started with the two colourful red and white lions and the carnival band and then came the 21 floats with over 700 Olympians and Paralympians on them. How wonderful it was to cheer each and every one of them as they slowly moved by on their floats.

The whole period was one of the most amazing experiences of my life and I feel privileged to have played a very small part in what turned out to be the friendliest and most successful Games ever held.

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## ***Village Lottery***

Alan Powell



August winners of the village lottery:

1st (£10)	Lyn Stillwell
2nd (£5)	Jeremy Woods, Mike Murray, Alan Powell

Congratulations to all.

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## ***Gardening Club***

Ed Reily



The September meeting began with a change of speaker from that advertised, with Barry Gayton dropping in with his talk on 'Growing Plants for the Flower Arranger'. He started by describing how plants were grown for flower arranging – at the front of the allotment patch – and moved on to detail which plants were grown for special effect and which ones for greenery. All in all, this was a very interesting talk and it was well received. The October meeting will be a talk by Trevor Illesley on 'Annuals and Perennials in Colour and Cultivation'. This will be held in Ovington Village Hall on Wednesday 3rd October at 7:45pm and all are welcome.

Contact Ed on 01953 885848 or Carol on 01760 440719 for further details.

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## ***Nearby events***

### **BEYOND THE POTTING SHED**

#### **A Social History of the English Kitchen Garden**

The English Kitchen Garden is the subject of the next WEA course to be held in Watton starting 2nd October 2:00pm at the St John's Ambulance Hall , Saham Road IP25 6AE.

From the Romans to the present day discover how our relationship with gardens and the food we eat has changed over the centuries. Find out about the origins of familiar fruits and vegetables, how they were grown and used, and explore the ways in which our gardens have reflected fashion and social change.

The tutor Charlotte Philcox, is an organic gardener, consultant and writer with many years' experience of giving talks, teaching, broadcasting, garden design and giving advice on gardens.

The WEA, the Workers' Educational Association, is a not-for-profit education organisation supported by funding from the Skills Funding Agency, and run by local volunteers. There are no exams, so one can work at one's own pace. Fees are kept as low as possible.

The 10 week course starts on Tuesday 2nd October at 2:00pm .The cost £50 is payable on the second week. People who are in receipt of income-based benefits or Job Seeker's Allowance are not charged. Come to the first session without obligation and see whether you think it's for you. Details of local WEA courses are available in Watton library.

Further details from Peter Chappell on 01362 820641

## **EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY**

Solo exhibition of paintings by JANET PEARCE of ASHILL

Wednesday 10th October – Saturday 13th October

Dragonfly Gallery, Wayland House, High St, Watton.

Mediums to include: acrylic, mixed media, watercolour and collage

Janet will be in attendance on each day. Please come in for a chat and hear some of the stories behind the pictures.

Opening Times: Weekdays 10:00 – 4:00, Sat 10:00 – 1:00

Contact Susan Hollingworth for further information 01953 880205

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### ***Jokes ...***

Tim from internet

Q: How does an Elephant get out of a tree?

A: Sits on a leaf and waits until Autumn !

Q: What did one autumn leaf say to another?

A: I'm falling for you.

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## ***Police***

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PCSO Tonya Winsley with responsibility for Ovington has reminded us that the new 'non-emergency' number has replaced the old 0845 number. Her contact

PCSO 8401 Tonya Winsley  
Watton Police Station,  
High Street,  
Watton. IP25 6AS

Tel: 101 or 01362 652137

Email: WinsleyT@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

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Police in Wymondham have teamed up with a Norwich garage to offer motorists free catalytic converter marking.

Drivers of Mercedes Sprinters vans will be able to visit Orwell Truck & Van Mercedes Benz in Hurricane Way on the 26 and 27 September to get catalytic converters marked.

The action follows a series of thefts across South Norfolk, Broadland and Norwich, with offenders targeted Mercedes Sprinter vans for the converter which contain valuable metals.

PC Ross Carter said: "Catalytic converters are prime targets for thieves because they contain premium metals platinum and rhodium. These marking events will make it more difficult for criminals to dispose of them at scrap metal sites."

Markings will be carried out by appointment only and anyone interested is asked to call Orwell on 01603 428000 to arrange.

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## ***Recipe***

Linda found this at [BBC.co.uk](http://BBC.co.uk)

We sought recipes to deal with the harvest glut so here's one to mop up the courgettes and apples. We haven't tried it ourselves so would love to know what it is like

### **Courgette and apple cake**

Serves 6–8

250g courgette, coarsely grated  
150g self raising flour  
150g caster sugar  
1 tsp cinnamon  
1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda  
200g sweet dessert apple, cored and grated  
100g sultanas  
2 medium eggs, beaten  
50ml fruity extra virgin olive oil plus extra for greasing

1. Place the grated courgette in a colander and sprinkle with a small pinch of salt. Put a plate on top, weigh down with a tin and leave for 30 minutes. Preheat the oven to gas mark 4/180°C/fan oven 160°C. Lightly grease a 450g loaf tin with olive oil and line the base with baking parchment.
2. Sift the flour, sugar, cinnamon and bicarbonate of soda into a large mixing bowl and stir with a whisk to mix. Squeeze any excess moisture from the courgettes and add them to the flour with the apple and sultanas. Stir to mix – you should have a fairly wet mixture.
3. Beat the eggs and oil together and stir into the cake mixture. Scrape into the cake tin and bake for 45 minutes–1 hour until risen and firm. A skewer inserted into the middle should come out clean. Turn the cake out and cool on a wire rack. Store in an airtight tin for 2–3 days/eat straight away.

## ***Let's keep Ovington dog poo free!***

There has been a bit of a rise in dog fouling again, please do not let your dog foul the roads or verges, or in the worst cases front gardens. Dog bins are available in Crown Crescent and adjacent to the Village Hall / allotments.

Please clean up after your dog.

### **Deadline for next issue: 23rd October**

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