

# The Ovington Oracle

October, 2013

October looks to be a busy month we hope you will be able to support some of the events in the following diary. Although Ovington is a small village there are always plenty of opportunities to meet neighbours and friends, however the nights are drawing in at their fastest rate, don't get caught out and remember a torch.

There is a survey included with the Oracle this month. Please take time to complete this as any application to the Heritage Lottery Fund will be supported by the views of the residents.

## 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 @ 11:00am	Crafters session, until 4:00pm
2nd Oct @ 7:45pm	Gardening Club
5th Oct @ 7:00pm	Ovtoberfest
13th Oct @ 9:30am	Holy Communion (Church)
15th Oct @ 7:45pm	Ladies Group, including short AGM
17th Oct @ 7:30pm	Parish Council meeting
20th Oct @ 4:00pm	Choral Evensong (Church)
22nd Oct @ 7:00pm	Christmas Bazaar planning meeting
26th Oct @ 7:30pm	Hot Supper Evening (The Old Crown)

To book the village hall contact Lyndia Lewis 882222

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

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## Welcome

The Village

Welcome to Jean who has recently moved into The Street. Several new residents have arrived over the summer months; we hope you will be able to join us in village events – we are a friendly crowd.

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## Ladies Group

Christine Hardy



Our September meeting was a very interesting talk with slides about bees and bee-keeping given by Paul Metcalf.

October brings us round to our AGM. We will have 3 vacancies on the committee as Joyce, Maureen and Christine have completed 3 years in office. We do have one willing volunteer and hope 2 more will be happy to join this really friendly group to help keep the Ladies Group thriving.

After the business we shall have a few games of bingo – always good fun. The competition is something beginning with 'S'. As usual everyone is welcome.

Also on 26th October we have a Hot Supper Evening at the home of Joyce and Jeremy Woods at 7:30pm. Lots of lovely hot casseroles, jacket potatoes, veg. and, of course, puddings. All for £8 per head (this also includes a drink – what value!). Look forward to seeing a full house.

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## Watton Festival 2013

Festival Committee

Saturday 26 October to Saturday 2 November 2013.

See information on all thirteen events in the full programme available from the beginning of September in the Tourist Information Centre, Adcocks, Edwards, Watton Library and other locations in Watton and surrounding villages.

Tickets are available on the website – [www.wattonfestival.org.uk](http://www.wattonfestival.org.uk) – and the TIC, by post via the Wayland Hall using the order form in the programme, and Festival ticket stalls in Chaston Place on Wednesdays. Contact numbers for tickets are 881792 and 884044.

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## Sponsored Church Cycle ride

P Johnson

May I thank all those that sponsored me on the Church Cycle ride on 14th September. I managed to cover 20church/chapels covering 40 miles. A dull damp start but drying out late morning. A grand sum of £265 was pledged. Once again thank you all.

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## What's On locally

Susan Hollingworth

Call for Artists - The Dragonfly Gallery needs your artwork.

'Happy Christmas' Art Exhibition Mixed Media, 2 & 3 Dimensional

November 30th – December 14th

Artwork of all kinds, gifts and cards will be welcome but art with a seasonal theme wherever possible.

For the second year the gallery will be part of the Breckland Art Trail, which last year proved to be very successful bringing increased footfall and sales. The aim of the Art Trail is to provide the public with the opportunity to travel around Breckland to not only view the diverse range of artwork on display, but to explore the district, its history, landmarks and many shops, businesses and establishments.

To submit your work or indeed if you require any further information please contact Susan Hollingworth 01953 880205 or email [susan@wayland.org.uk](mailto:susan@wayland.org.uk).

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## Village Lottery

Christine Reilly



Congratulations to the September winners, there are two second prizes this month:

First Prize (£10)      A. Powell

Second Prize (£5)      John Hardy  
and                              Mary Davey

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## Church

Ann Johnson

A big thank you to all who helped in anyway to make our Harvest Festival Service and Auction a very special one. The church looked beautiful with all the harvest produce and flowers and was a rich reminder of God's promise to us 'that there will always be a harvest'.

Thank you also to all who took part in the recent Norfolk Churches Bicycle ride and to all the people who manned the church and welcomed the riders with sustenance and signed their forms.

2:00pm Monday 7th October – church cleaning

9:30am Sunday 13th October – Holy Communion

4:00pm Sunday 20th October – Choral Evensong

... followed by refreshments in the Village Hall. We are expecting a large choir. Do come along and enjoy this service.

If anybody would like to join the flower rota and take a turn once a year to do flowers in the church and join all together for Christmas, Easter and Harvest, we would be very pleased to welcome you. Monies are available for any reimbursement of expenses incurred.

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## Gardening Club

Ed Reilly



The September meeting unfortunately had only a small audience to hear a splendid talk by Trevor Illsley on 'Perennials in Colour and Cultivation' which ranged from Gertrude Jekyll's designs of gardens, right up to the island beds of Alan Bloom.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 2nd October in the village hall at 7:45pm. For further details, contact Ed on 01953 885848 or Carol on 01760 440719.

**STOP PRESS:** Due to a bereavement, the October meeting will now be a talk by Pauline Harper on 'Vegetables in General'.

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# Church Heritage Lottery Fund Application

Chris Springford, Churchwarden

St John's Church is in the process of applying for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

There has been a church in Ovington for about 1000 years. Every five years, the fabric of our church is inspected by a Diocesan architect – who then produces a report to itemise the key maintenance jobs that should be done to keep the building in good order for the future. The report in 2009 identified some £35,000 of work that was then needed. Since that time, we have spent about £15,000 to install new heating and lighting in the church, which has severely depleted church funds.

A report from our architect of the current state of the church building and repairs to the gravestones is expected to show that we need about £80,000 to £90,000<sup>1</sup> to fix internal/external cracks in the walls, replace lead in some of the windows, improve drainage and soakaway systems, roof-work to replace missing tiles, repair damaged/rotten woodwork and roof drainage systems. In addition, mortar in the external walls is disintegrating and needs replacing. Some work is also needed to fix damaged gravestones. We also need to install a lightning conductor and would like a water supply.

In order to achieve a grant from the HLF, we have to show what impact such expenditure will have in improving the amenities of the local community. For example:

- Will more people use the church for services, concerts, flower festivals and other gatherings? Will it create a greater local and wider usage for such events?
- Can we use the exercise to create an exhibition to demonstrate and promote the effectiveness of the HLF in bringing closer links with the local community?
- Suggestions for other events and activities are welcome (to help with our bid).

The church enjoys a close collaboration with the village hall

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<sup>1</sup> The village would need to raise about 5% of this total, should our application be successful

committee, joint fund-raisers are part of the village calendar; but we need to show a desire for additional church events.

The best attended services are the annual Carol, Easter and Harvest services. Occasional Evensong, Baptism, Wedding and Funeral services provide the rest. The number of people attending these services was 460 in 2012 and 438 so far this year.

We need to show that we can achieve the following:

### **Outcomes for heritage**

Our church heritage will be in better condition, better managed, interpreted & explained and better identified and recorded.

### **Outcomes for people**

With the investment, people will have developed skills, learned about heritage, changed attitudes or behaviour, had an enjoyable experience and volunteered their time for the project.

### **Outcomes for communities**

Environmental impacts will have been reduced. A wider range of people will have engaged with heritage. The local community is a better place to live, work or visit. The local economy will be boosted. The organisation will be more resilient.

Further information on Outcomes is available at [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)

To help us in our aims a survey is included with this edition of the Oracle. Please ring "yes" or "no" and complete the other details, then please return this form by Monday 14th October to either:

Rod RUMSBY	Kestle, 31 The Street
Ann JOHNSON	45A, The Street
Chris SPRINGFORD	3, Church Road
or	leave it on the table in the Church.

Any other comments or additional explanation would be gratefully received and could be recorded in the space on the back of the survey.

An autumnal welcome from the village hall. As the nights draw in our attentions now turn to the new season's events:

## **Ovtoberfest Saturday 5th October**

The evening's main event is supported by 'The Backdrafts' a local band of fire-fighters whose popularity has grown fantastically after booking them, they have since performed at the Norwich Forum and have a single to purchase on iTunes in aid of smoke detector awareness.

A selection of local real ales and a cider will be on sale as well as wines and soft drinks.

There will be a raffle on the night, with prizes supported by Hollywood Cinemas, Anglia Karting Centre, Mid Norfolk Railway, B&Q and some kind donations from villagers to date, there is always room for more! We have also had kind pledges for the purchase of raffle tickets from people unable to attend the evening itself, if you would like tickets, please call Matt before 4th October to be entered in the draw.

There are still tickets available, but as this is a catered event, could I please ask you to book your tickets by the 3rd October by calling Matt on 07730 880111. If you intend to turn up on the evening without prior booking, it will be great to see you; however booked tickets will have priority over food and seating.

## **Christmas Bazaar**

Christmas! I hear you say, but it will soon be looming, so time to prepare for the festive activities, to that end, the annual bazaar planning meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd October at 7:00pm at the village hall. If you could help support this event in any way large or small, it would be great to see you there.

## **Curry Evening**

This year's curry supper evening will be on Saturday 9th November at 7:30pm and will offer a variety of mains, sides and desserts.



Tickets are £8.00 a head and can be obtained from Christine 885848. Bring-Your-Own-Bottle!

## Coming Soon

Ovtoberfest                      Saturday 5th October - TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Curry Evening                  Saturday 9th November

Christmas Bazaar              Saturday 7th December

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Christine Reilly

## Latest news ... Quiz

The Village Hall quiz team were successful in defending their county title recently at the Norfolk Association of Village Halls quiz final. As well as retaining the Julian Goody Memorial Cup, they won £250 for village hall funds.

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## Hospitality Appeal

Revd Jane Atkins

Could you offer someone a home far from home for just a day or two? HOST, a well-established charity, is hoping to hear from people who enjoy making others feel at home, and who would love to meet interesting young adults from other parts of the world who are currently studying at universities in the UK, and who want to understand this country better.

One host wrote: 'It is a great to welcome these students and make them feel wanted. They get to see a good side of life in Britain in contrast to what they might learn from the media. It is also fun getting to know someone from another country.'

Invitations can be for a day, a weekend, or 3 days at Christmas. Sharing Christmas with someone who has little idea what Christmas is can be really special – and for the guest, much better than being on a deserted university campus. Invitations are urgently needed from volunteer hosts, no matter how far they live from a university. To find out more, please see [www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org) or contact local organiser David Patey 01508 483838 [hostdavid.patey@googlemail.com](mailto:hostdavid.patey@googlemail.com) Thank you.

## Matter arising

Administrative details were passed to the Village Hall (VH) Committee about positioning the defibrillator in the telephone box. The VH have requested that the Parish Council adopt and insure the phone box. Since this was not an agenda item we could not formally agree at this meeting but Councillors were generally sympathetic to the request.

Information had been circulated regarding the recycling of drinks cans. After further research including evaluation of costs it was agreed that at this time it would be cost prohibitive so please continue to recycle cans via your Breckland black bin.

The SAM2 (flashing speed sign) has not been working. This has been reported to Highways who have removed the signs. They have guaranteed that they will return the sign to the village once the battery has been replaced, but it has not turned up yet!

## Planning

A detailed discussion about the Otterwood Kennel enforcement notice and the latests planning request was considered. The Parish council is a statutory consultee but must make comments solely for planning reasons:

*The Parish Council feel that permission should be refused. They are concerned about existing and continuing environmental contamination from storage of waste and also maintenance of vehicles and associated works. They are also concerned about the danger of traffic entering the highways on a dangerous high speed section of road. The Environmental impact and loss of mature trees at the front of the site will increase the visual impact of a potentially over-developed site. The tree survey implies that these trees are of poor condition, however the Council would like to query the source of the tree survey as it is not in accordance with local knowledge. Noise contamination from diesel generators has already been raised by local residents which will only increase as there is no electricity on the site.*

## Guns

There have been a few shotgun and air-rifle incidents in the village which have caused significant concern. The police have been involved and are taking the matter seriously. There are increased patrols with specialist officers involved. If you use a legal weapon please be polite and considerate to others in the village and be aware of the current sensitivities.

## Next meeting

17th October at 7:30pm, as usual Councillors tend to arrive 15 minutes early to discuss any matters arising before the official meeting.

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## Temporary closure of car parks

Breckland Council

Breckland Council is to begin a 5 year programme of re-surfacing and re-lining all Council-owned car parks. The first tranche of improvement work will involve the following car parks:

### Swaffham

Lynn St car park will be closed from Monday 14 October for a week. Station Road car park will be closed from Saturday 19 October for a week.

### Dereham

Breckland Business Centre car park (St Withburga Lane). Public area of the car park closed from 26 October until 3 November.

*Editor: This is a bit odd because this car parks looks fine to me, whereas Cherry Tree car park is in desperate need of some work!*

### Thetford

Tanner Street (north) car park closed from Monday 4 November for a week.

The lower half of White Hart St car park closed from Monday 11 November for a week.

## And finally ...

Tim

Despite the insensitivities of Asda, Tesco and Amazon over fancy dress costumes I still think there is time for a few Halloween 'groaners'...

Q. What is a vampire's favourite breed of dog?

A. Bloodhound

Q What kind of horse does a ghost ride?

A Night mare.

Q. Why do ghosts only eat the finest quality whole-food?

A. Because it is super-natural.

Q. Which tool is most important when building a haunted house?

A. A spirit level.

Contributions always welcome – jokes, puzzles, anecdotes.

### **Deadline for next issue: 24th October**

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Please send contributions to either above or email:

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A large print version is downloadable from the village web-site.