

The Ovington Oracle

February, 2014

The annual village litter pick is set for 1st March. Previously, we have had our share of snow and rain so this year we must be due a sunny day.

As Rod has kindly provided us with rainfall it seems a good time to consider if old folklore can help us decide whether to holiday at home.

We need to note the weather between the 12-14 February as the old rhyme states '*if stormy the year will be favoured with good weather, if fine the weather will be foul*'.

Diary Dates

All at Village Hall unless otherwise indicated

Mondays @ 10:30am	Coffee morning, until 11:30am
Mondays @ 1:45pm	Bowls
Mondays @ 6:00pm	Breckland Js Junior Choir
2nd Feb @ 9:30am	Holy Communion (Church)
4th Feb @ 1:30pm	Chatter Tea
5th Feb @ 11:00am	Crafters session, until 4:00pm
5th Feb @ 7:45pm	Gardening Club
16th Feb @ 10:30am	Morning Worship (Church)
14th Feb @ 7:30pm	Cheese & Wine (1, Church Road)
18th Feb @ 7:45pm	Ladies Group
25th Feb @ 8:00pm	Village Hall AGM
1st Mar @ 10:00am	Litter pick (meet at village sign)

To book the village hall contact Lyndia Lewis 882222

More at: www.ovington-village.org.uk

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Ladies Group

Angela Wynne



Our first meeting of 2014 was held on Tuesday 21st January. It was lovely to see the hall full of ladies all eager to meet up after the Christmas break. We had some new ladies who will, hopefully become full members. Christine Hardy gave us a crafty evening.

We all went home with a beautiful hand crafted photo frame. It looked as though the ladies all had a lot of fun making it and I'm sure all went home with sticky fingers. So a huge 'thank you' Christine for all your hard work.

Our February meeting is on Tuesday 18th February and will begin at 7:45pm in the Village Hall. Linda Murray is preparing a fun quiz for us all and I'm sure it will be another enjoyable evening. The competition is something beginning with 'V'. All ladies are very welcome to join our friendly group.

On February 14th the Ladies Group will be having their annual Cheese and Wine evening (£7 each, including first drink). It will be held at the home of Lyndia and Chris, Thornborough, No 1 Church Road and will begin at 7:30pm. It will have a Valentine theme. We look forward to seeing all our ladies with husbands, partners and friends as well.

Everyone is welcome to the Ladies Group events.

Report from the unconfirmed minutes of the 16th January meeting:

Matters arising from previous meeting:

We were informed that a mirror at the cross-roads would not be permitted. A request has been set for a County Highways engineer to meet us on site to view the problem.

The hedge along the playing field has been cut, councillors were pleased with the work.

We received formal confirmation that the village has adopted the phone box and we look forward to the installation of the defibrillator.

Road Safety:

Work on the road has begun, slightly delayed when a lorry crashed adjacent to the works – but the accident proves the need!

With the demise of the speed sign and the County Council withdrawing it from service the Clerk has come up with an alternative solution. It was agreed to purchase a share in our own vehicle activated sign in partnership with 5 other parishes and operate it on a rotor basis. The cost is £292 which includes initial maintenance.

In view of a number of near misses between pedestrians and cars the Council is proposing to make available reflective wrist bands and reflective clips which could be fixed to school bags. This will formally be discussed at next meeting, but in the mean time anyone who would like one please contact Karen:07735 205990

Precept:

After much discussion the council set the Ovington precept at £3740, which is an inflation rise only. However, because of the way Breckland Council calculate the tax base and the fact they are withholding council tax support the actual rise in bills will be noticeably above inflation. That said, the Parish contribution to

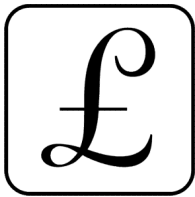
overall council tax is only a tiny component. Councillors were displeased that external changes beyond our control have had such a significant effect.

Next meeting:

27th March at 7:30pm in the committee room at the village hall.

Village Lottery

Adrian Malton



The draw dates for 2014 are on the notice board in the village hall; the January winners were:

1st Prize £10

Mrs Smith.

2nd Prize £5

Ed Reilly.

The final winners of the 2013 Lottery, drawn at the Christmas bazaar were as follows:

1st prize £50

Jill Malton. (18)

2nd prize £25

Vernon Conie. (5)

3rd prize £15

Amanda Hardy. (15)

4th prize £10

Simon Hardy. (10)

5th prize £7

Pat Powell. (24)

We so far have 54 members in the village lottery for 2014. This should go up as there are still people who were in last year's who have not renewed yet.

It is not too late ... anyone wishing to join the lottery for 2014 please contact Adrian Malton on 881053 or Christine Reilly on 885848.

Village Hall

Christine Reilly

The AGM will take place on Tuesday 25 February at 8:00pm in the Village Hall. The meeting is open to all and refreshments will be served afterwards, before the new committee takes over. Do come along and give us your ideas for events you would like to see in the coming year. If you have some time to spare and would like to help, perhaps you could consider joining the committee – new members always welcome.

Can You Dig It?

Tickets (£8 each) are now available for the show on Saturday 15 March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, either from the VH on Monday mornings (10-12) or from the box office (01953 885848). Details of the show are on the flyer enclosed with this month's Oracle. This is our first venture into live entertainment, as members of Creative Arts East, an organisation dedicated to bringing live shows out to local communities. They are sponsored by Norfolk County Council and Breckland Council, amongst others, enabling us to enjoy quality entertainment at local prices. Don't miss it!

Litter Pick – 1 March

Timothy Birt



We were a bit late last year, but this year the only convenient date to borrow the equipment is at the beginning of the month, so the litter pick will take place on Saturday 1st March.

Please meet at the village sign ready for a 10:00am start. Safety equipment and litter picking tools will be provided and bagged rubbish will be collected throughout the morning and I will arrange for its disposal. It is anticipated, with sufficient volunteers, we will finish shortly after 12:00 and meet at the Village Hall for a scrub up and refreshments.

The essential extra ... please would anyone who is willing to help by providing some light refreshments be that sandwiches, cake or any other scrummy village fare please contact Linda or Tim – 889208.

What's on locally

Sue Rothwell

Dereham War Memorial Hall (Norwich St. NR19 1AD)

Friends of Memorial Hall have arranged a series of events including:

Wednesday, 19th February (Half-term week)

Norwich Puppet Theatre present:

The Frog & The Princess (Suitable for ages 4+)

Performances at 11:30am and 2:00pm - £6 children, £8 Adults –
Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Tickets available from Sounds Music Shop,
Nelson's Precinct, Dereham. Tel: 01363 696995.

For more see: www.derehammemorialhall.co.uk

Timothy Birt

Having been significantly involved with the refurbishment of Dereham Memorial Hall I am happy to offer a 'behind the scenes' tour of the building. We could have a peak at swimming pool, still present (but empty) under the main hall floor, now used for rainwater collection storage tanks. Alternatively, the advanced gas-engine driven heat-pumps on the roof might be your interest.

Breckland Council

Olympic legacy helps local women get fit

Young women aged 18-25 are being offered the chance to boost their fitness and improve their health and well-being for just £10 with six-week gym courses starting soon at leisure centres in Breckland.

The courses planned for leisure centres in Thetford, Dereham, Swaffham and Attleborough start in February and are subsidised by Sport England's £56m Sportivate project. For more information contact the various Leisure centres (Dereham is 01362 693419, course starts 4th Feb)

St John's Heritage Lottery Fund Bid

Chris Springford

Thank you to all who replied to the Heritage Lottery survey in the October edition of the Oracle. Some 31 households returned the forms and we are delighted with the response.

The following figures show there has been a substantial response to nearly all the questions asked and a broad coverage of interest.

OVINGTON HLF BID – Initial Survey Results

This is an analysis based on the Reply Sheets not necessarily the number of people involved, which would give higher numbers:

<i>Time of Holy Communion Service:</i>		<i>Planned Giving</i>	8
a. 9.30	2	7. Direct Debit	6
b. 10.00-10.30	7	8. On-line	2
c. Evening	1	<i>Church Opening</i>	
<i>Attend Main Festivals</i>	18	9. Need church open daily	16
<i>Family Service Time:</i>		10. Mind if church closed	29
a. 10.00-10.30	10	<i>Community aspects</i>	
b. 11.00	1+3?	11. Research Church History	18
c. Afternoon	1	12. Help HLF Exhibition	10
d. Evening	1	13. Help external pointing	10
<i>Songs of Praise Time:</i>		14. Help internal decoration	11
a. Any-time	2	15. Help fix monuments	12
b. 10.30	5	16. Help with grounds	11
c. 2.00-4.00pm	4	17. Help HLF Fund raising	21
d. 5.00pm	1	18. Help other aspects of HLF	11
e. 6.30pm	2	19. Help cleaning, flowers, etc.	12
<i>Evensong Time:</i>			
a. 4.00pm	2		
b. 6.00-6.30pm	8		

As a result of the survey please see the 'Church' report by Revd. Jane for revised service dates and times, beginning in February.

Application to the Heritage Lottery Fund

An initial submission to the HLF team was made in November, to see if we had a good chance of our bid proceeding. We applied for initial funding of £160,000 to meet the urgent repairs to the church

building that had been identified by the architect; and around £30,000 to meet the community aspects of the HLF requirements. (You may have seen a cherry picker in use at the church to inspect the tower roof, where some slates were replaced as part of this inspection). It is likely that we would need to find about £10,000 of this either in money or resource, to support the application.

The community aspects might include researching the church history; development and staging of an exhibition to record the work done; publishing a brochure or series of brochures to record the project. This may include regular updates to the village website to show progress; involvement of local schools to develop awareness of the heritage we have in this church; recording the trees, plants and wildlife in the churchyard; updating of the burial register; discovering any notable graves and the history behind those people (Apparently we have an admiral buried in the churchyard and there is some mystery about two servicemen who may have been interred there during the first World War). We also need to consider how best the church can be used for more than services – maybe for recitals and or concerts (we already have at least two offers to do this) – to extend its usage by the local community.

The result of the pre-qualifying application

The good news from the HLF team in Cambridge is that we can proceed to the next stage of the bidding process. Submissions for this are to be in by 28th February (for a decision by the end of June 2014).

We are still competing for funding with everyone else that had applied for funding – so the outcome is not guaranteed. It may well be that we have to settle for less than we have applied for in the first round, but we could then apply for further tranches of funding later on.

This substantial project will provide the opportunity to harness the latent skills and talents of many Ovingtonians. If you feel that you would like to help further, please let us know.

It's still not too late to complete a survey form, which will help us with the next stage of the bidding process. If you need another survey form please contact Chris Springford – 07802 322 783.

Church

Rev. Jane Atkin

New Services for a New Year

The Parochial Church Councils within our Benefice have reluctantly agreed to stop the combined benefice services effective from this month. This decision has left us with both regret and anticipation:



Regret, because we really enjoyed the first services we held as a Benefice; people made an effort to come and to enjoy the company of fellow Christians in the Benefice, but latterly people have increasingly only attended the one held in their own parish church.

Anticipation, because this opens up an opportunity to try something new. Our service of Holy Communion, currently held on the second Sunday of the month, will move to the first Sunday of each month at 9:30am, beginning in February. In addition, we will be holding a Lay Led Service, i.e. a service based purely on Morning Worship on the third Sunday of each month at 10:30am.

If Holy Communion is not for you, or you prefer a bit of a lie-in on a Sunday, the new Lay Led Service might be for you. Give it a go, it is not a very long service and we would love to see you.

Ann Johnston

Church Cleaning will take place at 2:00pm on Monday 3rd February.

Gardening Club

Ed Reilly



The January meeting was a talk by Terry Rands on Managing Pests and Diseases Organically. The content certainly surprised some of us since we were encouraged not to do anything to tackle the cause directly but to work towards better environmental conditions to solve the problem. This approach seemed to be a much better idea and gave us all some thoughts on how we might manage problems in the future. All in all, a very good and thought-provoking talk.

The February meeting will be on the subject of Pruning by Ian Stanton on Wednesday 5th February, 2014 at 7:45pm in the village hall. We look forward to meeting you at the hall and further details can be obtained from Ed on 01953 885848 or Carol on 01760 440719.

Ovington Rainfall

Rod Rumsby

December 2013 --51mm or 2"

Total for 2013 was 610mm or 23.8" what will it be for 2014...

January 2014 thus far is 58.5mm or 2.3" and it is still raining!

And Finally...

Riddles:

Q1: How can two people be born at
the same instant have different birthdays?

Q2: In which month do you get the least sleep?

Q3: How do you arrange four objects so they
are equally spaced from each other?

A1: Born in different time zones

A2: February, because it has
fewer nights

A3: Place three in a triangle and the
fourth in the middle but raised up,
thus forming a tetrahedron.

We have been made aware that the odd email has not reached the Oracle mailbox. We acknowledge all but the regular contributors. If we don't confirm receipt please phone.

Deadline for next issue: 21st February

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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.