

The new look

# What's On OVINGTON



September 2004  
Volume 9/9

## **DISTURBANCE AT 2 am WAKES VILLAGE RESIDENTS**

### **All day drinking spree ends in doorstep fight**

After the events of 22 July villagers are asking themselves if the resulting skirmish in the early hours of the following Friday morning could have been avoided by sharper vigilance. Eyewitness reports say a red Vauxhall Nova car was seen being driven up and down The Street at considerable speed at intervals during the day.

#### **Police called**

Police were called by the occupants of one house where two teenage girls had apparently vomited on the owner's doorstep. Later the same day the two girls lay in the road with their bikes preventing the owner from moving her car out of the driveway. The group were seen at various locations throughout the day, including the junction of Crown Crescent and The Street and the village hall car park where large quantities of alcohol were consumed.

#### **Carbrooke gang involved**

Apparently there was only one youth from Ovington involved but he, it seems, had recruited friends from Watton. It is alleged he was the driver of the car and is currently under a driving ban. On more than one occasion they made sorties towards Carbrooke and eventually got involved with a bunch of kids from the neighbouring village. What happened between then and the early hours remains unclear.

#### **Shouts of "I'll kill you" heard**

Just before 2 in the morning Jenny and Peter Smith were alarmed when they awoke to the sound of abusive and threatening exchanges between kids who were actually inside their front garden. They had a stack of wood kindling at the front door that the intruders were using as weapons. Mr. Smith, whose young children were very frightened, switched on a security light and shouted from his bedroom window. The youths ignored him so he dressed and went downstairs taking with him his dog. Meanwhile the offenders had moved on down the street. Police are investigating. ◇

## **HEAD ON CRASH AT OAK FARM BEND**

### **Electrician could have been killed**

Dick Paul, a mild mannered electrician who lives in Hingham, was on his way home travelling in his 1 ton white van towards Carbrooke via Ovington. As he approached the left hand bend at the entrance to the Redhill Estate he was met by an oncoming Range Rover and trailer travelling as he put it "pretty darned fast". There was no avoiding a collision as the Range Rover smacked into the offside front of the electrician's vehicle causing extensive damage to the bodywork and a blow out of all the driver's cab windows.

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### **OTHER PAGES**

Reminiscences/Laurence Howe—Church News

Ladies Group—Crossword—Ramblings/Chris Lewis

Rod Rumsby—Wild Flower of the Month—Rain Gauge

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### Van is a write off

Mr Paul, who found himself sitting in an inch deep carpet of broken glass, was completely stunned although fortunately not injured. "Had I been driving an ordinary car" he said "I might not have been so lucky." Apparently the Ovington bound vehicle travelled on at least 30 to 40 metres after the impact. As Mr. Paul, still dazed, climbed out of his damaged vehicle which was later written off by the assessors, he was greeted by a string of abuse and profanities. The more he tried to reason with the other driver the worse it got until he thought he was in real danger of actual physical attack.

### Now Paul faces a law suit

The owner of the Range Rover and trailer is a company called Robinson and Son of Garveston near Dereham who were delivering hay to an address in Ovington. Apparently Mr. Robinson's son was driving at the time of the accident. On arrival at the scene a police constable cautioned Mr. Paul after it was alleged by Mr. Robinson he was driving too fast. Now it transpires Robinson and Son are suing Mr. Paul for negligence and loss of income due to their vehicle being off the road for repairs. Mr. Paul, who considered a counter suit, is leaving his insurance company to settle the matter. ◇

### The Ovington Fuel Trust

is looking for two volunteers to join them in operating this charitable organisation for the benefit of Ovington residents. Meetings, of about one hour's duration, are held four times a year. For more details contact the secretary, Rod Rumsby at 31 The Street or ring him on 01953 882246.

### August Lottery Winners

Christine Reilly £10.00  
 Maureen Rand £ 5.00  
 Pansy Westwood £ 5.00

## Eulogy by Rod Rumsby

### Obituary

**SENSE. Common, passed away 2004. Born of a humble background, to become the mainstay of society.**

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend by the name of Common Sense, who had been with us since time began.

No one knows how old he was, since his birth certificate was lost long ago amidst a plethora of bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain and why the early bird gets the worm. Common sense lived by simple, sound financial rules (Don't spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting strategies, (adults, not the children, are in charge). His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well intentioned, but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a six year old boy being charged with sexual harassment for planting a kiss on a girl classmate. A teacher being suspended for reprimanding an unruly student only worsened his condition.

He declined even further when schools were required to obtain parental consent before an aspirin was given, but were not allowed to inform parents when a student became pregnant.

Finally Common sense lost the will to live as Churches started to become businesses, and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common sense sadly gave up when a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot and after spilling some of it in her lap, was able to sue, and receive a huge settlement for her carelessness.

Common sense was preceded in death by his Father, Truth & Trust. His Mother, Discretion. His sister Responsibility & his brother Reason.

He is survived by two Stepbrothers, My Rights & Imer Whinger. It is feared not many will attend his funeral as so few were aware of his passing. If you knew him, pass on this news. If not, join the majority and do nothing.  
 Anon.

**THANKS**—Pansy and Yvonne would like to thank everyone for the letters and cards of condolence and prayers, on the sad loss of a very dear husband and dad. Hopefully we have acknowledged them all, but should anyone have been missed please accept our apologies. Also, thanks to all those who attended the funeral.

### next month in *What's On*

**Letters column**—We're still waiting to hear from you. **Shop Window** where you can offer items for sale—50p will buy you a month's exposure and you can have a picture if there is space and the print quality is OK. Regular contributors to WOO should note that copy must be received no later than 15 September for inclusion in October's edition. Please e-mail to [chris.lewis@downtoearthcomputing.co.uk](mailto:chris.lewis@downtoearthcomputing.co.uk) or deliver to Thornborough, Church Road.

## Laurence Howe

## reminiscences

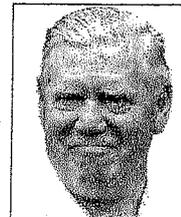
**D**uring the 1930s the shadow of the dole queues hung over most of Britain. In rural Norfolk where the main source of employment was agriculture, families with only one or two on the dole could count themselves lucky. With many farms near bankruptcy this decade was to change forever the attitude of landowners towards their servants and labourers. Those with a trade such as carpenters, bricklayers and electricians came off best in these troubled times because they were able to pick and choose their jobs.

As an alternative to land work the much envied job was to be had with the railway companies where the management/worker relationship was at its best. I was lucky enough to have such a job. You were respected by the bosses, given a smart uniform, a decent wage and, in many cases a house to go with the job. We were issued with a free rail pass each year to anywhere on the national network and all member's of the family could travel at a third of the regular fare. The mighty railways promised a job for life plus a small pension on retirement. People found casual work in sugar beet factories, maltings where barley was processed for the brewing industry and some foundries making and repairing farm machinery. Norfolk had always been an

attraction for holiday makers who flocked here in their thousands by means of cheap return tickets to Yarmouth, Cromer, Sheringham, Wells and Hunstanton on the small but packed M&GN trains a dozen times a day from grim midland towns. It was a boon time for the resorts particularly as the rail companies owned most of the larger hotels.

Most villages in the county were no more than a few miles from a station and, since there were very few cars, people went around on bicycles which kept them fit. And nearly every village was self sufficient with its post office, phone kiosk, shop, possibly a bakery, always a church and often even an undertaker with his own horse and bier.

Then came the wonder of the modern age – electricity. Of course it had been around for a long while since Edison but not in domestic households. So the candles and oil lamps were gradually replaced by the electric light bulb. At first people were nervous that the brightness they had not been used to might damage their eyes. Of course they overlooked the fact that reading by candlelight had probably done more harm to their eyes than the new form of lighting ever would. *Next month – Preparing for war.*



## Chris Lewis

## ramblings

**B**C Radio 4s Today programme revealed a few weeks ago that Norfolk police face a £7.8m shortfall in their budget which caused me to ponder: where is it all going? And why do we never have enough? The UK economy is currently the second largest in Europe, behind Germany, and set to become the biggest in twenty years; economic migrants are reportedly flocking here. So why are we always hard up?

Fifty years ago there seemed to be plenty of policemen. Was there really one in every village? We certainly had one, he caught me crawling through a cornfield with his son, playing at Indians and a painful interview followed in front of my parents. Would this happen today?

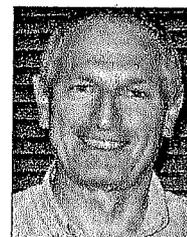
Even as a country just getting over a major war we could still afford sufficient policemen to meet our needs. Of course the population has grown since then but so, in proportion, has the income from the taxes we pay.

So what has changed? Are we spending less on social services, including the police, or is it that we are less law abiding and prepared to risk antisocial behaviour so long as we are not caught in the act? Nowadays people are dissuaded from doing anything to uphold the law and often afraid to admonish a

child for bad behaviour. This right and duty has been taken away from us but, in return, the police are expected to provide a similar public service. This is, of course hugely expensive and practically impossible.

We therefore grow up with an increasing disregard for (or ignorance of) the accepted rules of society. In the days of "back to back" housing, omnibuses and everyone working for the same local firm it was difficult to ignore your neighbour and his opinion of you. Nowadays we can put a fence up around our property, drive alone in our private cars to a job miles away from where we live and remain (we believe) completely anonymous. So, to counteract this we now have video cameras to watch us, soon to come satellite tracking of our vehicles, ostensibly for road pricing or insurance premiums, and identity cards to differentiate us from the rest of the faceless multitude.

We villagers still enjoy a measure of these earlier values because we know our neighbours and they know us. Let us not abandon this fragile advantage we have over the city dweller. We might even save on our Council Tax!



## THE SAINTPAULA & HOUSEPLANT SOCIETY

Affiliated to  
THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



The East Anglia Branch of the above society cordially invites anyone interested in houseplants to come to our next meeting on Sunday October 10 at 2.30 pm. in the Community Centre, Hale Road, Ashill, Nr Watton.

The speaker is Valery Day who will be telling us about *Rochfords Nurseries* which used to be situated at Turnfurd Green, in Hertfordshire. In the 1960s & 70s this nursery was the only grower of houseplants in the UK and supplied all the garden centres at the time.

The talk, illustrated with slides, should be both interesting and enlightening.

There will be a raffle, plants for sale and free tea or coffee and cake. Do come and spend a couple of hours with friendly people who have a common interest.

If you would like more information please call us on 01760 440843

## WELCOME to Ovington

A warm welcome to Maria and Bob Warwick who have swapped the Boeing 737s of Stansted for the F15 Eagles of Ovington and come to make their home at Woodlands. The village wishes them a long and happy stay



## Wild flower of the month



150-600mm

**BLACK NIGHTSHADE** grows in most parts of England and Wales. In East Anglia it can be commonly found as an annual weed on wasteland, in gardens and among crops on arable land. It has pointy leaves and the flowers look like the white blooms of its relative the Bittersweet with a prominent cone of yellow stamens. The clusters of drooping berries turn from green to black when ripe. There is a perplexing toxicity of Black Nightshade that contains alkaloid salanine. Cattle can handle large intakes of the plant but to humans it is highly poisonous and in some cases may prove fatal if eaten.

### RAINFALL FIGURES FOR JULY

**2004— 73.5 millimetres**

**2003— 85.5 millimetres**

**1994— 27 millimetres**

Once again it is easy to spot the trend. As with June a decade ago, July has been considerably wetter the last 2 years. In July 1994 it rained on only 7 days—this year we had 14 days with rain. Note also below that over half the month's rainfall occurred on only 2 consecutive days, making the month appear less wet.

**2004— 8th/25mm—9th/14mm**

**2003—27th/15mm— 31st/14mm**

**1994— 25th/9mm—29th/4.5mm**

Measured and compiled by Ted Bowman

## Ladies Group

The speaker at this month's meeting was local solicitor Robert Chalmers of Kester Cunninham John who talked about making a will and inheritance tax. There were 25 members present and, in recognition of a very interesting evening, a donation of £25 was made to a charity chosen by Mr Chalmers— Papworth Hospital.

On September 21st Mr Rob King will visit us to talk about basket making. Perhaps his demonstrations will encourage some of us to take up a new hobby.

We always welcome new members so come along to the village hall and join in the fun.

## Bowls Club

Monday	6 <sup>th</sup> September	1.45 pm
Monday	13 <sup>th</sup> September	1.45 pm
Monday	20 <sup>th</sup> September	1.45 pm
Monday	27 <sup>th</sup> September	1.45 pm

## Garden Club

A meeting in the Village Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> September will be a talk and, hopefully, slides, by Mr A. Sankey on "Making a Garden from Scratch". The meeting will be at 7.45 p.m. On the 6<sup>th</sup> October Mr Parkwell will give a talk on "How to take cuttings". He says he will be bringing plants for sale.

## Church News

### A CONCERT

Tickets at £5 each for the concert by the Livewire Opera Group on 18th September are now available from Margaret Cator in the Parish Office, Adcocks in High Street, Watton and Pansy at Ovington (883 978).

### CYCLE RIDE

Sponsor forms can be obtained from Pansy. The money raised is shared between the Norfolk Churches Trust and our own church.

### SEPTEMBER SERVICES

- 5th No service at Ovington
- 12th Parish Communion at 9.00 am.  
Mrs P Westwood (lesson)  
Mrs P Westwood (steward)  
Mr & Mrs R Malton (flowers)
- 19th \*\*Harvest Thanksgiving\*\*
- 26th Parish Communion at 9.00 am.  
Mrs A Johnson & Mr D Pritchard (lessons)  
Mr D Pritchard (steward)  
Mrs P Westwood (flowers)

## EASY PRIZE CROSSWORD



### Crossword clues

#### ACROSS

- 7 Choice (6)
- 8 Set of eight notes (6)
- 10 Betraying one's country (7)
- 11 From Italy's capital (5)
- 12 Spent (4)
- 13 New (5)
- 17 Move gracefully (5)
- 18 Group of three (4)
- 22 Inexpensive (5)
- 23 Originator (7)
- 24 Pantry (6)
- 25 Relative (6)

#### DOWN

- 1 Line on a map (7)
- 2 Immersed in (7)
- 3 Cook under heat (5)
- 4 Female stage performer (7)
- 5 Front of the hands (5)
- 6 Denim trousers (5)
- 9 Acquaint (9)
- 14 Indoor footwear (7)
- 15 Object (7)
- 16 Female singing voice (7)
- 19 Size (5)
- 20 Strange (5)
- 21 Lure (5)

Please post your completed puzzles to Chris at Thornborough or Mike at Brovey Lair. There were no correctly completed entries last month so the prize rolls over. The first complete and correct solution drawn on September 15 wins a bottle of deliciously fruity Castillo de Moral Valdepenas Reserva 1999 from Spain.

### Last month's answers -

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Across: 3 Squatting,    | Down: 1 Enjoyment,    |
| 8 Noun, 9 Incubate,     | 2 Juxtapose, 4 Quite, |
| 10 Outfit, 13 Mopes,    | 5 Accused, 6 Tube,    |
| 14 Perfect, 15 Mad,     | 7 Note, 11 Restraint, |
| 16 Nostril, 17 Attic,   | 12 Stockings, 14 Pal, |
| 21 Salami, 22 Villains, | 15 Midwife, 18 Issue, |
| 23 Snug, 24 Barometer   | 19 Pisa, 20 Alto      |

*Handwritten signature or scribble.*