

Clocks back this month

What's On OVINGTON



October 2004
Volume 9/10

HOUSE PRICES SET TO RISE DESPITE SLOW DOWN

Hingham may be next Burnham

Local estate agents William Brown predicts that house prices in the Watton area will continue to climb albeit more slowly than they have during the last few years. There is likely to be a steady growth of some 11 to 14 per cent spread over 3 years as opposed to 12 months. But it will not be any easier for first time buyers due to a shortage of low priced housing in the region.

South West is best bet

The Burnham Market bonanza has reached melt down with dolls house size cottages changing hands sometimes only just below £500,000. Mike Rix of Savills in Norwich says it has got to be the end of the line for what had become a licence to steal money from buyers willing to pay any price to be within walking distance of the Hoste Arms. Now the popular belief is that due to the inflated prices up on the coast the emphasis will shift to some of the more desirable inland villages.

Survey puts Breckland top

Hingham has been mentioned as the new destination for rat race escapees. Another agent says however that when valuing a property they always factor in the transportation issue and this has, for a long time, been a major influence on prices in the Wayland villages. In a recent national survey the Daily Mail said the best performing Norfolk region in the next few years will be Breckland. This, coupled with better access from London and the south by road, is good news for property owners in Ovington. Watch out for Breckland—it's on its way up.

COULD YOU WRITE A POEM AND READ IT LIKE PAM EYRES?

This month's Ladies Group meeting offers all budding poets the chance to win a poetry competition.

The guest speaker at the monthly meeting on Tuesday 19th October is Tony Ireland whose topic will be "**Norfolk as she is spoke**".

This should prove an interesting insight into the local twang, especially for newcomers to the county, (those of you that have lived here less than 30 years!).

The hunt is on for an Ovington bard

The competition is to write a Pam Eyres style poem, which will hopefully prompt some of you ladies to release your inner bard. The editors of WOO will publish the winning entry in the November issue. All Ladies of the village are welcome to attend. Meetings start at 7.45pm in the village hall and we look forward to seeing you all there.

OTHER PAGES

Reminiscences/Laurence Howe—Scrap Booking

Parish Council—Crossword—Ramblings/Diane Murphy

Chris Lewis—Wild Flower of the Month—Ted's Rain Check

Absolute Rubbish

by Chris Lewis

I have always enjoyed visiting factories and seeing how things are done - from a visit to an optical lens manufacturer and a myriad of little glass disks being endlessly rubbed with jeweller's rouge to the traditional visits to breweries when at college. Then there was the Rover 2000 production line where I saw the attachments for decorative trim being fitted to produce corrosion weak spots on my TC model years afterwards. Later I was privileged to witness many of the advanced technologies that go into a modern military aircraft and the manufacture of flying clothing. So when the opportunity arose to visit Norfolk Environmental Waste Services' (NEWS) multi-million pound Waste Recycling and Transfer Centre at Costessey I didn't need to be asked twice. We create at least 435 million tonnes of waste every year in the UK and enough is produced every day to fill Trafalgar square to the top of Nelson's Column. Household waste is growing at 4% a year and we are running out of landfill sites. The solution is recycling and at least 50% of the content's of householder's bins could be

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recycled. By paying NEWS to recycle your rubbish Breckland DC can make a substantial saving on the cost of landfill but there are some snags! Recycling only works if there is a buyer for the end product, 25% of household waste is packaging but there is a market only for clean paper and card. The sorted material is pulped and the ink removed before being used as newsprint but this process cannot accept items contaminated with glue such as envelopes, wallpaper or plastic coated "Tetrapak" drinks containers. Every year 13 billion steel cans are produced which can be separated and recycled as can the £36 million pounds worth of aluminium cans we throw into landfill. Plastic drinks bottles can be separated by virtue of their cylindrical shape but not if they have been squashed. And keep taking your glass bottles to the bottle bank although it's only the clear glass that brings in the money. The technology which picks out the steel and aluminium cans and plastic bottles is quite impressive but more so are the teams of hand sorters working at a frenzied pace picking out such items as sledge hammers, car batteries, bits of plumbing and old clothes that would damage the equipment or reduce the value of the end product. So restrict your black bin to clean paper (no envelopes), tin cans (food or aerosol) and plastic drinks bottles (not flattened) and the value of the scrap will increase. Breckland is credited with 75% of the increased profit and this will keep your council tax down.

Church News

Cycle Ride Thank you to those who manned the church and sponsored the ride. 28 cyclists took part as well as some doing their own tours.

Church Path We are hopeful the re-laying of the church path will be completed before the bad weather sets in. Progress is being made in our application for a faculty.

Poppy Appeal Pansy will be selling poppies through the village during daylight hours from 30th October to 13th November.

Concert The Livewire Opera Group sang a wide range of music from "For the Beauty of the

Earth" to the "Can-Can". Churchwardens and the PCC would like to thank everyone who helped make the evening an outstanding success.

ROTA for October

3rd—Rev. Tim Weston's Ordination at Carbrooke
 10th—Parish Communion at 9am
 Mr. R.Malton (lesson) Mrs Westwood (steward and lesson) Mrs R.Rednall (flowers)
 17th—Evensong at 6pm
 Mrs P Westwood (lesson) Mrs P Lovewell (steward and flowers)
 24th Parish Communion at 9am
 Mr R Hardy (lesson) Mr & Mrs Malton (stewards)
 Mr C Springford (flowers)
 31st Benefice Service

What's On deadlines

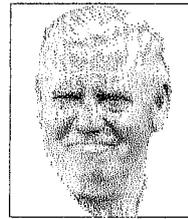
Please e-mail contributions to chrislewis@downtoearthcomputing.co.uk or deliver to Thornborough, Church Road. Copy deadline for November is October 15th.

Laurence Howe

reminiscences

Electricity. It was like a whole new world had opened up. Of course it was harvest time for the vacuum cleaner and electric cooker salesmen. Houses were suddenly dust free so even the spiders left home. Out went the old battery radio sets with their clumsy accumulators and people tuned in more often to the BBC or Radio Luxembourg. The new valve type radios were so convenient but took an awfully long time to warm up and tune in. On summer evenings after a game of cricket or helping out in the fields of local farms we would settle down after supper to listen to programmes like Henry Hall's Music Night (good evening everyone – this is Henry Hall speaking) In Town Tonight, a forerunner of the celebrity chat show, Variety Bandbox and Saturday Night Theatre. On Sundays there was the long running Two Way Family Favourites, the Billy Cotton Bandshow and the wonderful Grand Hotel. (hands up those who remember Dick Barton – Special Agent – Ed.) Can you believe radio announcers and news readers had to wear dinner jackets? As war got nearer the Territorial Army was called up but after the visit of Chamberlain to see Adolph Hitler half of them were sent home again. They were recalled though when the Prime Minister made the announcement on BBC Radio that we were at war with Germany after their

armies crossed the Polish border. It was Sunday 3rd September 1939 and we were all in church. When the vicar announced that we were at war many of the congregation broke down in tears. As we filed out of the church into bright sunlight many looked towards the war memorial not knowing what the future would hold. So many questions were asked that day. Did it have to come to this? Do we have to go through the whole appalling waste of life all over again? The BBC announced rationing of food, clothing and petrol. They told us everything would be needed for the armed forces. Workers would be directed to war work like the land army, hospitals, factories, mines and all kinds of trades from building work to mechanics and electricians. They were all sent to build army camps, airfields (particularly in Norfolk) ports. Factories were instructed to produce whatever the services needed and my own industry, the railways, were taken over by the government for the duration of the war to provide whatever transport the armed forces needed. They were fearful times but the British spirit was immovable and the will to win unstoppable.



Next month: We are at War.

Diane Murphy

ramblings

In the late 1950s and early 60s my elder sister and I would spend the long summer vacations from our junior school in North London, at our Nan's in Southwold. Mum would take us to Kings Cross where she would put us on the Grey Green coach after checking with the driver that he would keep an eye open for us both until we reached our destination. To this day she is horrified that she did that, but it was drummed into us from as early as I can remember that you did not go off with strangers, and we definitely would not have, and given that times were different then, I do believe we were probably quite safe. For my sister and I it was always the highlight of our year. The day after school broke up for the summer we would be on that Grey Green heading for Southwold for a whole wondrous eight weeks, a lifetime!

If we got the back seat it was a great bonus. I cannot remember quite why, but the back seat was THE place to sit, and with any luck we would sit there with our cheese and squidgy tomato sandwiches and packet of crisps, which always held huge disappointment if the little blue bag of salt was missing. The trip from Kings Cross to

Southwold took 5 hours exactly and once out of London the world would change from drab grey to glorious Technicolor as green and gold fields stretched endlessly alongside us, and the sky was always, always a brilliant blue, because outside of London, the sun really DID always shine in those days.

On arriving at our destination you could be sure of three things: That the wonderful smell of the salty sea air would hit you as soon as the coach door opened, that Nan would be waiting to hug us into her very ample, always aproned bosom, and that the heady aroma emanating from Adnams Brewery would get you 'high' before you had even taken twenty paces.

Ahead of us lay weeks of freedom, there were no rules at Nan's house. No set bedtime, no homework, no cruel, hurtful words from the Nuns at our convent school, and with our two teenaged Uncles still living at Nan's, there lay ahead only gentle teasing, fun, adventure and guaranteed laughter.

Let's have more of these evocative stories—Eds.



Editorial

Inevitably there were going to be those for and those not so for. There has been a survey done on who likes it and who hates it and it seems to come out even, as might be expected. The Daily Mirror probably records much the same reader reaction. Unfortunately What's On was unable to survive on village news alone for two reasons. First there is not enough to fill even a monthly paper and people are unwilling to come forward with stories anyway. Ovington, like any other village, is full of individuals, all with their own views, many with controversial opinions and some with stories to tell. For example we just love Laurie Howe's Reminiscences. Here is a guy who simply tells it as it is. His stories really strike at the heart of anyone who was around in the mid 1900s. There has been criticism of the two lead stories in our September issue. OK they were fairly graphic but then Ovington has its problems like anywhere else. Like any other rural community anywhere in the UK the village has its fair share of soap opera plots. Laurie Howe will tell you how tough it was in the years leading up to the war. He will also tell you how prosperous villagers are 60 years on. We live in a village of which we should be justly proud and WOO will seek to vehemently defend its reputation. Meanwhile, if anyone thinks they can do better and would like to take over the paper they should make representations to the Village Hall committee. These will be passed to the editorial staff who will consider all offers. Critics of WOO may like to write in and share their views with readers.

Comment allez vous?

For the last two years Carbrooke has had exchanges with a village in South East France called Soleymieu. (1 hour east of Lyons.) These have proved to be quite popular and there is now an opportunity for the people of Ovington to become involved. The next likely event is a trip to France in the spring of 2005 followed by a French visit here the year after. Those interested in participating in an Anglo-French exchange please contact Wendy Kennaugh on 01953 884456 (Ovington) or Graham Redfern on 01953 885473 (Carbrooke).

Wild flower of the month



MARSH LOUSEWORT. A common plant of peaty bogs and acid wet pastures. Mainly found in Scotland and the south west but rare in the east, the stem is moderately tall, often reddish with deeply pinnately divided leaves bronzy in colour. The dark pink flowers are on short spikes and the calyx is hairy and inflates when the fruit is ripe so the seeds rattle inside it; hence its other name Red-rattle. The flowers are two lipped. The upper lip has four teeth and the lower three lobes. Plants will often appear in September.

RAINFALL FIGURES FOR AUGUST

2004—	129 millimetres
2003—	13 millimetres
1994—	48 millimetres

It is almost impossible to believe that the rainfall this August was 10 times that of the same month last year when rain fell on only 2 days. This August produced 20 days of rain which broke several records. September was much drier but generally we have not enjoyed nearly such a good summer as last year's.

2004—	10th/21mm—25th/13mm
2003—	2nd/10mm—30th/3mm
1994—	12th/20mm—18th/11mm

Measured and compiled by Ted Bowman

Parish Council

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village hall on 25th October 2004.

Amongst matters discussed were:

Planning Application. The proposed extension to the Old Rectory has been approved.

Traffic. The council has again complained that, following an accident on the notorious bends, traffic was diverted in both directions along Church Road and through The Street causing congestion and danger to pedestrians. At the request of Norfolk Constabulary the Council has sent them a map of a suggested diversionary route sending northbound traffic through Saham Hills and southbound through Ovington.

Noise nuisance. There have been several complaints of a noise nuisance caused by barking dogs. Complainants have been given diaries to keep following which further action will be taken if justified.

Garden Club

On the 6th October Mr Parkwell will give a talk on "How to take cuttings". He says he will be bringing plants for sale.

Photo Scrap-booking Club

We are a fledgling club, having only started three months ago, but already our numbers have risen from 3 to 9 members. We meet in the village hall, usually on the third Thursday of the month 8.00pm -10.00pm. Our next meeting is on 21st October. The first meeting is free then annual membership costs £3.00. Session fee (members) is £1.00. Session fee (non-members) is £2.00

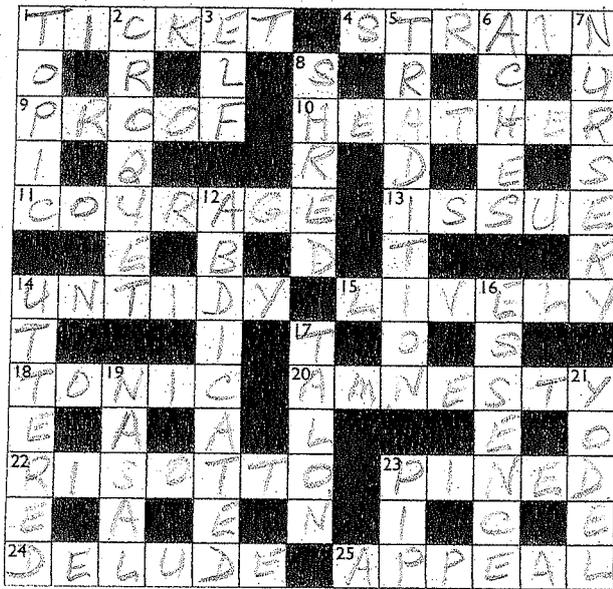
Photo scrap-booking is a different and imaginative way of storing your treasured photographs, any one that is interested in either seeing what we do, or having a go is extremely welcome. You do not have to be in any way artistic (believe me I am not!), but you could surprise yourself with what you can achieve.

For further information please call Michelle on 884544. Come along and have some fun.

September Lottery Winners

1st prize	£24.00	David Wickham
2nd prize	£10.00	Stan Gibbons
3rd prize	£5.00	Mrs M Rowland
4th prize	£5.00	Ernie Painter

EASY PRIZE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Travel card (6)
- 4 Stress (6)
- 9 Evidence (5)
- 10 Moorland plant (7)
- 11 Bravery (7)
- 13 Edition (5)
- 14 Messy, disorderly (6)
- 15 Busy, active (6)
- 18 Pick-me-up (5)
- 20 General pardon (7)
- 22 Rice dish (7)
- 23 Longed for (5)
- 24 Deceive (6)
- 25 Entreaty (6)

DOWN

- 1 Theme (5)

- 2 Lawn game with hoops (7)
- 3 Pixie (3)
- 5 Custom (9)
- 6 Pains (5)
- 7 Kindergarten. (7)
- 8 Tear into pieces (5)
- 12 Gave up title of king (9)
- 14 Spoken (7)
- 16 Nature of (7)
- 17 Hooked claw (5)
- 19 Relating to the nose (5)
- 21 Sing in Swiss style (5)
- 23 Apple seed (3)

Please post your completed puzzles to Chris at Thornborough or Mike at Brovey Lair. The winner last month was **Rod Rumsby**. The first complete and correct solution drawn on October 15 wins a bottle of deliciously fruity Castillo de Moral Valdepenas Reserva 1999 from Spain. The crossword is sponsored by The Café at Brovey Lair— one of BMW's "20 Great British Restaurants" 2004.

Last month's answers -

Across: 7 Option, 8 Octave, 10 Treason, 11 Roman, 12 Used, 13 Fresh, 17 Glide, 18 Trio, 22 Cheap, 23 Creator, 24 Larder, 25 Cousin.

Down: 1 Contour, 2 Steeped, 3 Roast, 4 Actress, 5 Palms, 6 Jeans, 9 Introduce, 14 Slipper, 15 Protest, 16 Soprano, 19 Scale, 20 Weird, 21 Decoy.

— S — N — E