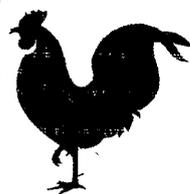


Fireworks are dangerous

What's On OVINGTON



November 2004
Volume 9/11

NEW VILLAGE NAME PLATES COULD MISLEAD VISITORS “I’m not sure where I live now” says home owner between villages!

The new village signs reportedly costing in excess of £300 each and recently implanted at what one imagines are the notional boundaries of Ovington, Carbrooke and other Wayland hamlets look the business. Clear green lettering on a pale cream ground and a reminder that we are all part of the Wayland community is smarter than we could have reasonably hoped for.

No man's land

There is just one thing though and it is something that we share with all villages in the country. What is the address of those who live between villages?



Take Maureen and John Simmons' property Oak Farm that actually states on its gate sign that it is in Ovington. Well until the signs went up the Simmons believed they lived in Ovington. But now they are outside the official boundary. Go further down Car-

brooke Road and you come to Catherine and Robert Chalmer's Bush Farm. They have always been Carbrooke people but where do they and their property now belong?

What is your view?

WOO would like to have readers comments both on the signs and the neutral territory created between signs. We suspect there is no relationship between the newly erected signs and the actual historic village boundaries. So Maureen and John still belong to Ovington while Catherine and Robert will be pleased to know they continue to live in Carbrooke.

Diary for November

1st	at 1.45pm	Bowls
3rd	at 7.45pm	Gardening Club
8th	at 1.45pm	Bowls
15th	at 1.45pm	Bowls
16th	at 7.45pm	Ladies Group
17th	at 7.30pm	Village Hall Committee
18th	at 8.00pm	Photo Scrap Book Club
22nd	at 1.45pm	Bowls
29th	at 1.45pm	Bowls
15th December	at 7.00pm	Christmas Bingo— eyes down at 7.30 pm

OTHER PAGES

Reminiscences/Laurence Howe
Prize Crossword—Reader's Letters
Church News—Diane Murphy

October Lottery Winners

£10 Sheila Scotton
£ 5 Rod Rumsby
£ 5 Alice Penfold

Churchyard Tales by Diane Murphy

Towards the end of September I watched the Anglia TV programme "Ghostly Tales of the Unexpected" which featured St. Mary the Virgin Church at Houghton-on-the Hill. It reminded me of my own visits there when I first discovered the church in March this year. As is often the way with me, I found it quite by chance because I was actually heading for somewhere else when something made me turn down a very narrow lane. It was along there that I noticed a sign pointing the way to a church. I decided to turn off and have a look, and at the end of a scenic track was this delightful little church quite literally in the middle of nowhere. Suddenly Father Christmas appeared; he had a full white beard, bushy eyebrows and a twinkle in his eyes so it must be him I thought. He turned out to be the lovely Bob Davey who is responsible for saving the church from dereliction.



There then followed the most interesting hour and a half, as he told me of resident ghosts, devil worshippers, of visits from royalty and of how he had saved the place from ruin. Eventually we ended our conversations and he promised me that next time I came I could climb the church tower to see the view. In April I returned to keep him to his promise. When I arrived there were several other people there and Bob was talking to them so I sat in quiet contemplation inside the church on my own. It is easy to become aware that this is a very special church

indeed. Of course all churches are special, but some are more special than others and some, sadly, have evil in them. But at St. Mary's you can sense that there is something really quite wonderful there, it's intangible, but definitely there.

After a while Bob was free and we climbed to the top of the church tower. It was a beautiful sunny day and the view across the countryside was stunning. We stood there for some time as

he told me all about the area and its past history.

He really is the most amazing man, and his passion, love and dedication for that church is evident in his conversation and his whole being. In the TV programme a psychic Lizzie Falconer said she felt the church was full of light and may eventually become a 'Place of Healing'. Bob told

her that on occasions the church has filled with light (there is no electricity and the only lighting is candles), at one time a lady had been sitting there on her own when the church had suddenly lit up!

This afternoon I decided to visit the church again; it was around 5 p.m. I was fairly sure that at that time no one else would be there, which was how I wanted it; I felt selfish and wanted to hug the aura of the place to myself. I had been there maybe only five minutes when.....

(readers are invited to continue Diane's story. Please send sequels in by next month's copy deadline November 15)

next month in *What's On*

Christmas—do you love it or loath it and why? We'd like to know your views and the best will be printed in next month's issue.

Instead of turkey—what? Alternative food for the holiday.

New Year Resolutions—WOO's 10 targets for 2005.

Life After Ovington—in the new year we are launching a series of articles that reflect the views of the sub-twenties who live in the village. If your children or any young person would like to write to us on this thought provoking issue please e-mail your letter to woo.letters@broveylair.com before 10 January.

Regular contributors to WOO should note that copy must be received no later than 15 November for inclusion in December's edition. Please e-mail to chris.lewis@downtoearthcomputing.co.uk or deliver to Thornborough, Church Rd.

Laurence Howe

reminiscences

As 1939 was drawing to a close it was obvious to most people that Germany's leader Adolph Hitler was not going to stop reclaiming all of the territories he considered belonged to Germany. Our Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain flew out to meet with him to try to persuade him to cease his programme of expansion. The result was the now infamous slip of paper we were led to believe was a declaration by the German chancellor offering us a glibly worded promise of "Peace in our time". Of course it was so much hot air as a few days later the German army crossed the Polish border and, because we had a treaty with Poland, we found ourselves unwittingly at war with Germany.

Last month I told you how we were deployed to assist the war effort wherever the trade expertise was needed. The railways where I worked were taken over by the Government during the war so the emphasis shifted from civilian traffic to the transportation of military hardware and troops.

In addition to being directed to full time work whether war related or not you were expected to join an unpaid force such as the LVD (home guard) later depicted in the brilliant TV series "Dad's Army" - the AFS (local fire service) or ARP (air raid warden). At first these units were voluntary but they soon became compulsory when uniforms were issued. Men in the home guard were generally land workers who were quick to appreciate a working set of clothing plus some solid boots. These were not subject to clothing coupons so it was as though

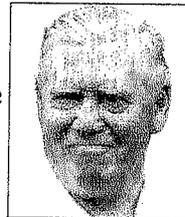
their Christmas had come early. There was one draw back however. They were obliged to parade once a week usually on a Sunday morning when they were at least sober.

As a keen army cadet I would often ponder how they would stand up should a German Panzer unit show up on the horizon. What would Captain Manwaring have done—well we saw it depicted so accurately through Jimmy Perry and David Croft's scripts for "Dad's Army". However the real thing might have been an entirely different story.

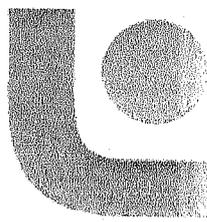
The War Office through the BBC advised people to stick strips of sticky paper to their windows to prevent flying glass if bombs exploded nearby while the local ARP warden issued stirrup pumps to put out fires after an air raid. Needless to say this was a bit like trying to extinguish a forest fire with a water pistol.

The period of war from September 1939 to the spring of 1940 was known as the phoney war as very little seemed to happen on the home front. Women's Institute's would collect woollen clothing and re-knit them into gloves, mittens and scarves for servicemen in the front line. The winter of 1940 was very cold with constant heavy falls of snow. In our village after only three months of war two wives with young families had lost their husbands.

Next month—The worst was to come.



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Letters to the Editors

The editors reserve the right to make omissions when necessary.

Village Hall Lottery

My thanks to everyone who has taken part in the Lottery this year; special thanks to Peggy who has faithfully collected money from the members of the Bowls Club.

The Lottery forms for 2005 will be included in the December issue of the What's On for you to complete and return to me with your year's subscription (£12.00).

It is unfortunate that these payments coincide with the Christmas expenses, but we have to comply with the requirements of Breckland Council as they only issue "Lottery Licences" from January 1st each year and require payment in advance of that date.

I would remind you that the more people who join in the Lottery then the bigger the prizes and also that after expenses 50% of the money received goes back to you, the members, and 50% to the Village Hall.

Once again, many thanks for your support over the last year.

Grace

31 The Street.

What has happened to the "What's On" ?

A lot of reading but little of what is happening in the village. Lack of information for special birthdays, anniversaries or family events. Also I was amazed to read the in depth reporting of the accident in Ovington in last months issue, surely this is close to litigation, especially as there will eventually be a court case over this matter.

Scotton Trophy: Is this event to held this year? I think it is usually held in October; or has it been shelved since there has been no reference to it in the last two issues?

Several people have made comments to how they do not like the new format, and feel the articles are too long winded. Please could we have the return of the *Dates for your diary*?

Yours sincerely,

Rosemary Philpot

We fully understand and appreciate your point of view but would ask you to be patient. What we have tried to do is move away from the simple bulletin format to more of a village news letter. There are bound to be mixed views on this but we believe a village paper (which is what this is) should be entertaining as well as informative. What we are asking readers to understand is that we are not a team of news gatherers (we have our own businesses to see to) and rely on you to send in the information and stories. Finally, please let us know who the people are who find the articles too long winded and we will arrange to deliver to them a more digestible form of news sheet.

The new look What's On was a good read and well presented.

I appreciate the thought and work which went into its production. However, may I advise extreme caution on your reporting of incidents especially when they are *sub judice*. In my view you are playing with fire and I would recommend caution.

In particular the report of the 'Head On Crash at Oak Farm Bend'. Any such reporting must be factual and any bias or impartiality shown must be based on fact. Failure to do so could result in you being enjoined in any subsequent proceedings. I write as a friend and fellow resident in the spirit of helpfulness. I do not know who is responsible for publishing What's On in the legal liability sense. On the assumption, perhaps wrongly, that that could be the Parish Council I have copied this to Rod Rumsby. Whatever, I do recommend a high level of care in editing. The old maxim - if in doubt, don't is well made.

Regards,

Terry Rands

Point taken. We are on a learning curve and value your advice. It is worth noting that this incident was fully investigated and the reporter is of the belief that what he was told was a true representation of the circumstances.

Ladies Group

The Ovington Ladies Group meeting for 16th November 7.45 pm will be the A.G.M. followed by a beetle drive. At the A.G.M. (which we promise is usually very short), we will be looking for two volunteers to join the committee. Being a committee member is not an arduous task, with around 4 extra meetings a year at times to suit all. As usual, all Ladies of the village are welcome to attend meetings and we look forward to seeing you there.

Garden Club

On the 3rd November there will be a meeting in the Village Hall at 7.45 pm. It will be a demonstration of making a wreath by Mr Graham Donochie of Oxborough Hall. The finished wreath will be raffled. The December meeting is the General Meeting followed by light refreshments.

Church News

CAROLS

On 19th December at 3 pm. you all are invited to our Carols by Candlelight Service and we do hope you will be able to join us.

WINTER TIME

Please note that from this month until next March the Evensong will be at 3 pm.

7th No Service at Ovington

14th Remembrance Sunday

Parish Communion 9.00 am

Lesson Mr R Hardy & Mr C Springford
Steward Mr R Hardy
Flowers Mrs P Westwood

21st Evensong 3.00 pm

Lesson Mrs P Westwood
Steward Mrs P Lovewell
Flowers Mrs P Lovewell

28th Parish Communion 9.00 am

Lesson Mrs A Johnson & Mr D Pritchard
Steward Mr D Pritchard
Flowers Mrs P Westwood

RAINFALL FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER

2004— 38.75 millimetres

2003— 14 millimetres

1994— 133 millimetres

After one of the wettest Augusts on record there was no rain until the 12th September. No pattern emerges since last year September was even drier with well under half this year's rainfall. And that followed an August during which it rained on only 2 days at the start and end of the month.

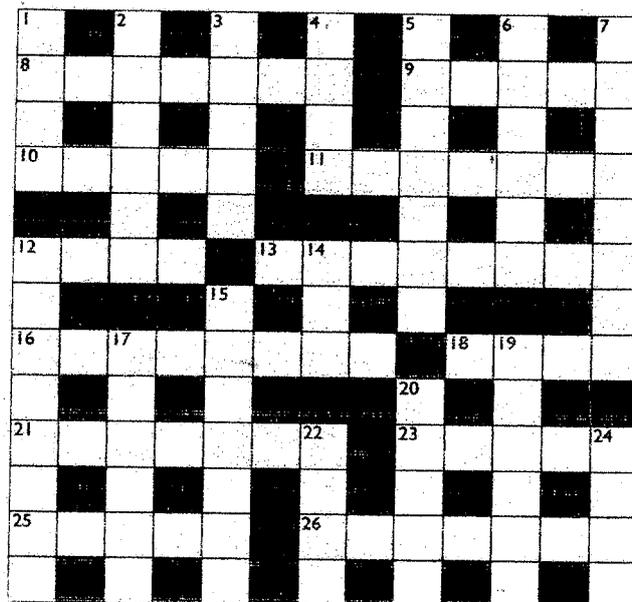
2004— 12th/8mm—23rd/16mm

2003— 10th/7.5mm— 23rd/5mm

1994— 1st/29mm—15th/32mm

Measured and compiled by Ted Bowman

EASY PRIZE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 8 Fine, flimsy fabric (7) | 2 Sharp, not sweet (6) |
| 9 Cut, gash (5) | 3 Put forward (5) |
| 10 Wash (5) | 4 Cosy (4) |
| 11 Snarled (7) | 5 Embrace, adopt (7) |
| 12 Wine bottle stopper (4) | 6 Garden flower (6) |
| 13 Not in the theatre's spotlight (8) | 7 Shivers (8) |
| 16 Sea cargo (8) | 12 Accident department (8) |
| 18 So (4) | 14 Enjoyment (3) |
| 21 Praise (7) | 15 Foreign diplomatic HQ (7) |
| 23 Revolt (5) | 17 Salary (6) |
| 25 Makes less wild (5) | 19 Cross breed (6) |
| 26 Hessian (7) | 20 Hoax, swindle (5) |
- DOWN**
- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Dry skin wound (4) | 22 Flagpole (4) |
| | 24 Limbs (4) |

*Please post your completed puzzles to Chris at Thornborough or Mike at Brovey Lair. The winner last month was **Daphne Preece**, 20 The Street, The first complete and correct solution drawn on November 15 wins a £15 gift voucher that can be cashed when you dine at The Café at Brovey Lair, rated by **Which?** as one of the top three restaurants in Norfolk in The Good Food Guide 2005.*

Last month's answers —

Across: 1 Ticket, 4 Strain, 9 Proof, 10 Heather, 11 Courage, 13 Issue, 14 Untidy, 15 Lively, 18 Tonic, 20 Amnesty, 22 Risotto, 23 Pined, 24 Delude, 25 Appeal.

Down: 1 Topic, 2 Croquet, 3 Elf, 5 Tradition, 6 Aches, 7 Nursery, 8 Shred, 12 Abdicated, 14 Uttered, 16 Essence, 17 Talon, 19 Nasal, 21 Yodel, 23 Pip.

Whats going on at Ovington's Village Hall on Sunday December 5th from 12 noon - 3.00 pm?

Of course, it's our 2004



Following on from your marvellous support for the Summer Fete, we hope that we can count on your continued support for the Christmas Bazaar. The Bazaar will start at 12 noon with a plethora of stalls and competitions. There will, of course, be the renowned Raffle which will be drawn at 2.30 pm. This year, as well as the usual sumptuous refreshments, from 12.30 pm, we will be serving a bowl of hot, home made soup with a roll, for just £1.00. From 1.45 pm The Breckland Harmony singers will entertain us with Christmas Carols. Father Christmas is expected to be popping in on his way through Norfolk

Items for the following stalls will be gratefully received by Grace (31 The Street) or any of the stall holders. Alternatively there will be a doorstep collection on Saturday November 20th between 1.30 and 3.00 in the afternoon.

Plants—Joyce Woods

Tombola—Pansy Westwood

Joshie's Sweetie Tobola—Joshua Pemberton

883173
↓

Children's Gift Stall—Peggy Lovewell

Glass/China—Daphne Preece

Gifts/Toiletries—Michelle Prothero

Books/Tapes/Videos—Ed Reilly

Raffle—^{Marie Warwick} Grace Rumsby

Homemade Cakes/Jams/Pickles (cakes on Sat. 5th or Sun 6th)—Lyndia Lewis

Refreshments—Maureen Simmons

We regret we are unable to accept any Bric-a-Brac until our summer fete on June 11 next year. However Daphne is looking for good quality china and glassware for her 'China and Glass' stall.

If you haven't been asked and would like to help at the Bazaar, please call either

Laura (889151) or Grace (882246).

Come and enjoy your Village's Grand Christmas Bazaar.